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US Ambassador to Croatia Peter Galbraith (l) and Croatian Premier Zlatko Matosevich (c) walk near the site of the plane crash where the body of US Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and at least 32 others were recovered. (AP)

US mourns death of trade secretary Brown

WASHINGTON — A stunned US capital was in mourning yesterday.

Flags flew at half-mast and grief hung over the Commerce Department.

The bodies of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and his entire entourage had been found, following a plane crash in Croatia on Wednesday.

A grieving President Bill Clinton, whom Brown had campaigned for in 1992, ordered flags flown at half-mast in the nation's capital. On Wall Street, the New York Stock Exchange observed a moment of silence.

"He was one of the best advisers and ablest people I ever knew. And he was very, very good at everything he ever did," Clinton told about 700 Commerce Department employees.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres said he grieved over "the loss of a true friend of Israel, a man who contributed much ... to the Middle East peace process," and who helped advance technological cooperation and trade relations between the US and Israel.

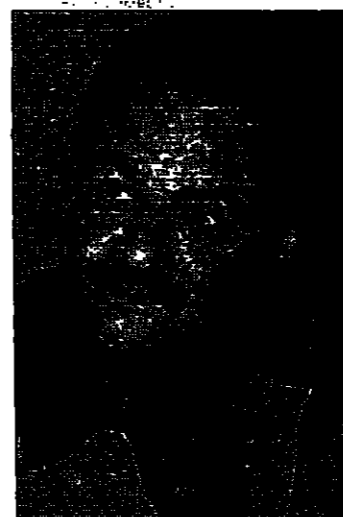
In sending his condolences, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat noted how Brown "visited us several times and helped us," according to Ahmed Qreia (Abu Ala), speaker of the PA Council.

Clinton and his wife Hillary joined other administration officials at a brief memorial service at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Afterward, Clinton said it was "a very moving memorial service, not only to grieve but also to celebrate the life" of Brown and the other victims.

At the Pentagon, air force Lt.-Gen. Howell Estes III said search crews were trying to determine the number of people on the

News agencies



Brown seen at Checkpoint Charlie in the separation zone before boarding his flight to Croatia. (Reuters)

plane. A passenger list showed 33 Americans and two Croatians but, as of yesterday, only 33 bodies had been recovered.

"We have found the last victim," Croatian Interior Minister Ivan Jarnjak said yesterday, confirming that no one survived the crash.

Contrary to reports from Croatia, Estes said he did not believe the Air Force passenger plane carried a voice or data recorder. He also defended the relatively old technology used to guide the plane toward the Dubrovnik airport before the crash.

"It is a kind of an approach that's been around for a while, there's no question about that, but it's still a very valid approach," Estes said.

"Many aircraft have landed at the airport there at Dubrovnik

with no difficulty," he said. "If we thought it wasn't a safe approach, we wouldn't allow our aircraft to use it."

The air force and the National Transportation Safety Board dispatched a team to Dubrovnik to investigate the crash.

According to Estes, the jetliner carried six crew members and 27 American passengers, including Brown, several aides, and more than a dozen senior executives on a mission to stimulate US corporate interest in rebuilding Bosnia. In addition, a Croatian photographer and translator were on board.

Among them were Walter Murphy, a senior vice president for AT&T Submarine Systems Inc., of Morristown, New Jersey; Robert A. Whitaker, chairman and chief executive officer of Foster Wheeler Energy International, Clinton, New Jersey; and John A. Scoville, chairman of Harza Engineering Co., Chicago.

The aircraft that crashed one kilometer north of the runway at the airport near Dubrovnik was the same plane used earlier this week to shuttle Defense Secretary William Perry — and, last week, Mrs. Clinton — through Bosnia.

Estes said the plane, an air force version of the Boeing 737, was making an instrument landing when it apparently veered off course and into the 700-meter hillside.

Estes said the crew manning the Dubrovnik tower reported no signs of emergency before the plane disappeared from their radar.

"There were no calls made indicating any kind of a problem aboard the aircraft," Estes said. "They were in contact with the tower, making their approach when contact was lost."

Namir to be ambassador to China

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir has been appointed ambassador to China and will take up the post before the elections to provide a fait accompli for any new government.

She will withdraw from Labor's Knesset list, thus vacating a slot for an immigrant from the former Soviet Union.

Namir, who was deeply disappointed at winning only the 18th spot on the list, accepted the proposal of Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Ehud Barak to serve in Beijing.

She was appointed on Wednesday by the Foreign Ministry's appointments committee, which is to name outgoing Ambassador Moshe Ben-Yaacov, ambassador to Japan.

Namir took a vacation following the primaries last week, after expressing her dismay at her low place on the list. Labor sources said it was made clear to her that she would not be a cabinet member in the next government, should Labor win.

Labor's convention will meet on Sunday in Beit Berl to approve Peres's proposal to place an immigrant from the Soviet Union on the party's Knesset list in a slot no lower than 25.

The new candidate will be elected on Thursday in primaries held among the 17,000 immigrants registered as Labor members.

This move was recommended by a special committee consisting of party secretary-general Nissim Zivli and Ministers Yossi Beilin, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, and David Liba'i. Peres accepted the recommendation.

The results of this election are due to be released by 4 p.m. Thursday, four hours before the deadline for parties to present their Knesset lists to the Central Election Committee.

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SHABBAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	6:23	7:38
Tel Aviv	6:41	7:40
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Beersheva	6:38	7:37
Eilat	6:39	7:38



German fund helps bus bombing orphans

BATSHEVA TSUR

A RAY of light came into the lives of Vladik Kushnirov, 9, and his baby brother, Tomer, who lost their parents in the first No. 18 bus bombing in Jerusalem, when the Frankfurt Jewish community announced on Pessah eve it will help them with educational expenses.

They will receive monthly payments from a DM 250,000 (NIS 550,000) endowment administered by the community.

Jana and Anatoly Kushnirov were killed as they left their home in Katamon to pay an installment on a new apartment they had bought.

The boys are now being cared for by their maternal grandmother and their aunt, who immigrated three years ago. They are waiting for the Absorption Ministry to find a suitable Amidar apartment that will accommodate the expanded family.

"I read about the Kushnirovs in the International Edition of *The Jerusalem Post*," said Stefan Szajak, managing director of the Frankfurt community, who is arranging for the transfer of the funds to the family. "We decided that, unfortunately, this was ex-

actly a case for our fund."

The donation will come from the DM 1 million Waizenegger Foundation and is intended to help the boys with any educational needs not taken care of by the state.

The remainder of the endowment (Continued on Page 2)

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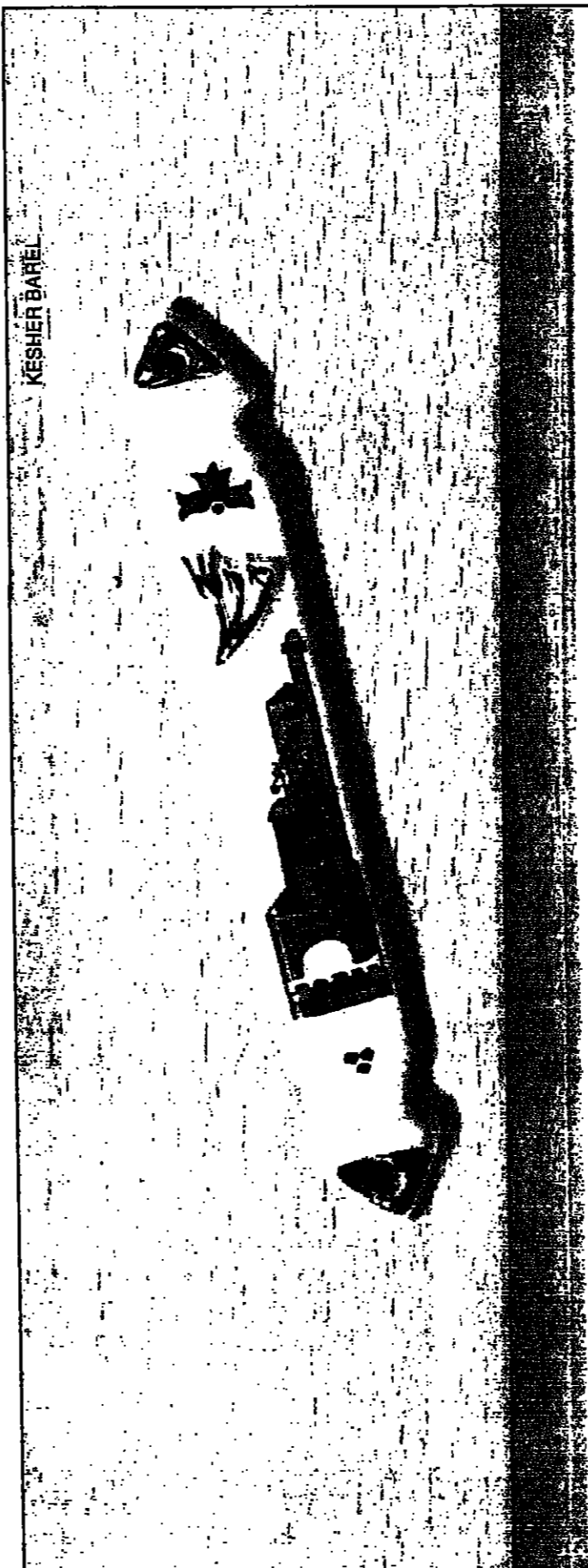
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Raanana: 112 Ahuva St.

מכירת הארץ

Qatari minister: Peace possible only with Jerusalem as capital of Palestine

A DAY before Israel and the PLO were to begin negotiations over the future of Jerusalem, a Qatari minister said yesterday that there would be no peace unless Jerusalem was the capital of a Palestinian state.

Qatari Justice Minister Najib bin Mohammed Naemi said there could be "no real final settlement between the Palestinians and the Israelis without Jerusalem as the main capital of a Palestinian state."

Naemi spoke at Bir Zeit University in Ramallah where he signed a deal on behalf of the Gulf state, pledging funds to pay for an international law center and new library for the West Bank university. His comments on Jerusalem were greeted by applause from the 150 faculty members present at the signing ceremony.

On Friday, Naemi visited Orient House in Jerusalem, after praying at Al-Aksa. He was welcomed at the PLO headquarters in the capital by members of the Palestinian Council, including Hanan

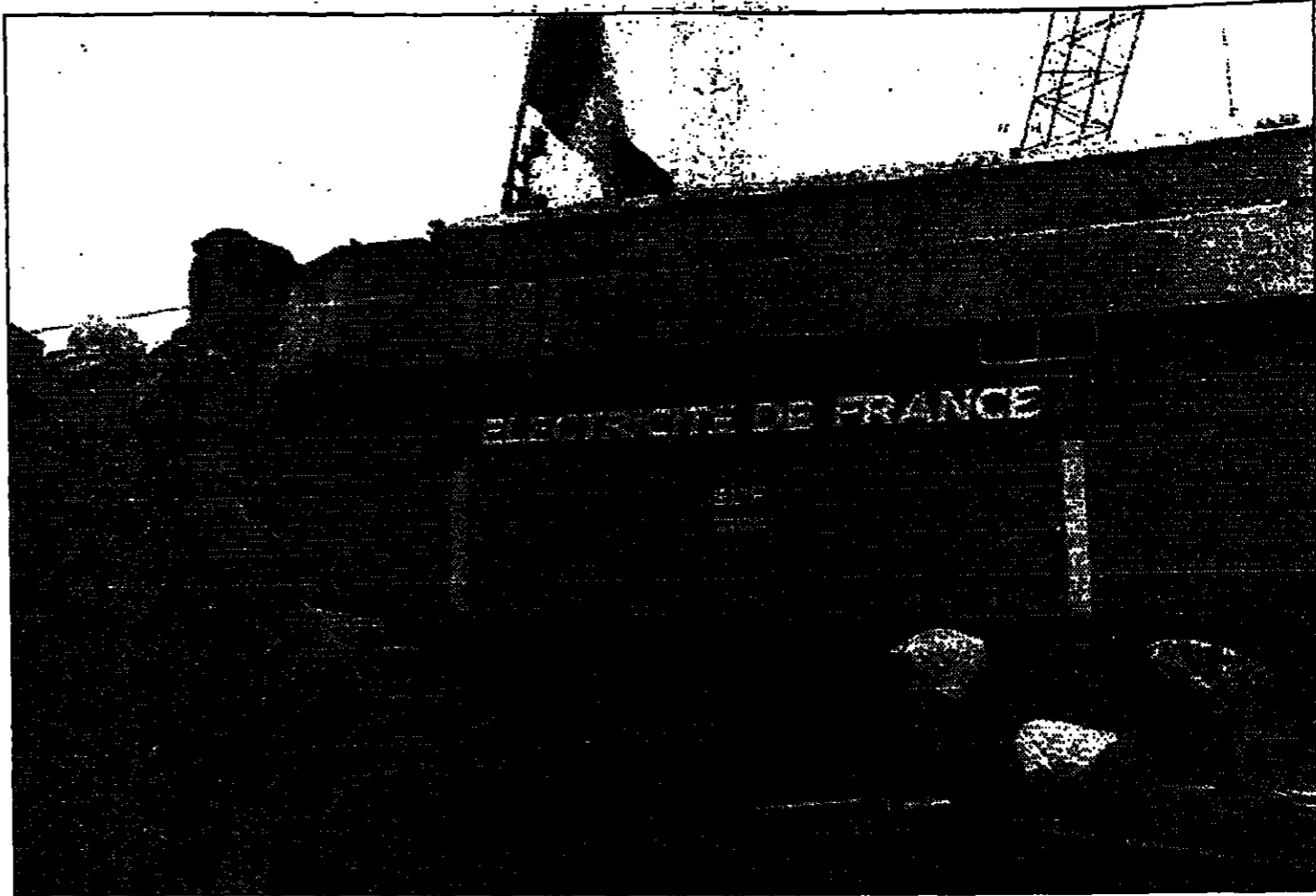
Ashrawi and Ziyad Abu Zayyad. "My visit is both official and personal," Naemi said upon entering Orient House. "I have come to support the Palestinian Authority's position of establishing a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

Naemi, who arrived on Thursday, also met Friday with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza.

Naemi confirmed that he had met with some Israelis during his visit, but said he had no official connections with the Israeli government while here.

Faisal Hussein, who holds the Jerusalem portfolio in the PA, said there was nothing unusual about the Qatari minister visiting Orient House. "We host political figures from all over the world and we are happy to receive the Qatari justice minister."

Both Hussein and Ashrawi condemned Israel for delaying IDF redeployment from Hebron. "It is not a good sign," Hussein said. Ashrawi said Israel "was violating the Oslo Accords" on the Hebron issue, but emphasized that it was a separate issue from the final status talks, which should start today as scheduled.



A Lebanese army soldier watches as a power transformer from France is unloaded in Beirut's port on Friday. (AP)

Yassin: Israel has right to exist under certain conditions

ISRAEL has the right to exist next to a Palestinian state under certain conditions, imprisoned Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin said in an interview broadcast on Friday.

"There can be peace... We should live next to the state of Israel... If you give me my rights

JON IMMANUEL

and let me live in tranquillity there will be peace between you and us. But there cannot be peace on the basis of subjugation," Yassin said on the Channel 1 interview.

Yassin, 60, who was jailed

seven years ago for sanctioning attacks on IDF soldiers, did not define the borders of Israel he deems acceptable, but Hamas spokesmen in the past have talked of a return to 1967 borders, the removal of settlements, and Jerusalem becoming the capital of Palestine as the basis of a renewable cease-fire.

Yassin implied that Hamas would recognize an agreement reached between the Palestinian Authority and Israel which gave the Palestinians their rights.

He said he respects the Palestinian National Council's decision to amend its covenant, which calls for the destruction of Israel, since the alternative would be to fight against the PA, which he said he finds unacceptable.

Yassin said he recognized Yasser Arafat as the head of the PA, explaining "If I don't accept Abu Ammar as president of the state of Palestine and leader of the Palestinian people, the meaning would be that I accept Israel in his place." Hamas rejected the PNC's order to amend the covenant. Yassin's role as Hamas leader has been overtaken by more radical elements who prefer to fight the PA than accept it. Gaza Chief of Preventive Security Mohammed Dahlan said yesterday that the armed wing of Hamas had plotted to blow up buildings and properties of the Palestinian Authority as well as assassinate Arafat and other figures including security chief Musa Arafat. "We have arrested almost all the members of the Hamas armed underground, but we are not arresting anybody who is not involved in planned attacks," Dahlan said.

Syrian papers: Punish Israel for 'brutal crimes' in Lebanon

DAMASCUS (AP) - State-run Syrian newspapers have called for Israel to be punished for its "brutal crimes" in Lebanon.

At least 91 refugees were killed April 18 when Israel shelled a UN compound at Kana in south Lebanon. Israel said its gunners actually had been targeting terrorists 300 meters from the compound.

Referring to the report, the daily *Tishrin* wrote yesterday: "All evidence and facts disclose that the criminal deliberately committed his crimes against the displaced Lebanese." *Tishrin* wrote that Israeli leaders should be brought to an international court to face charges in the massacre.

Another government-run newspaper, *Al-Thawra*, demanded international sanctions against Israel, accusing it of "state-organized terrorism." The Arab League secretary-general Dr. Ismat Abdel Magid last week was quoted in the London-based *Al-Hayat* that the Kana killings were "worse than Nazi methods during World War Two."

Meanwhile, Lebanese President Elias Hrawi yesterday met President Hafez Assad to discuss the continued implementation of a cease-fire between Hizbullah and Israeli forces.

Although Syria was not directly involved in last month's fighting, it is the key power in Lebanon and its assent was needed to bring 16 days of fighting to an end April 27. Hrawi and Assad met in the northwestern city of Latakia on the Mediterranean coast.

No details were given of their agenda, but they were expected to discuss the formation of an international committee to supervise the truce.

Zvilli: Netanyahu deceiving public

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli slammed Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday for "once again trying to lead the public astray."

Zvilli was referring to Netanyahu's statements over the weekend that he would increase the number of Jewish settlers in Hebron and add more settlements. Zvilli said this contradicted Netanyahu's previous pledges to continue the peace process and recognize the Oslo Accords.

He said Netanyahu's policy, according to the statements,

would "distort once again the order of priorities set by the Rabin and Peres governments, redirect financial resources from the needy quarters, the Negev and the Galilee, to the villages of the settlers in Judea and Samaria, blow up the peace process, and cause 1.8 million Palestinians to return to the course of terrorism."

Zvilli charged Netanyahu with "either deceiving the public, yet again, when he said he would

advance the peace process, or [lacking] a minimal understanding of political processes as a result of his inexperience."

Prime Minister Shimon Peres refused to be interviewed on Channel 2's Friday night program, to which Netanyahu was invited as well, leaving the stage clear for the exclusive appearance of the opposition's candidate for prime minister.

Labor campaign sources said yesterday that it is Peres's policy

not to be interviewed in programs with the opposition head, so as not to grant Netanyahu an equal status.

Peres and Netanyahu will take part in one television debate on May 26.

Today, Labor and Meretz intend to sign a surplus vote agreement in the Knesset, as they did in the previous elections.

The agreement is to be signed by Meretz's Knesset faction chairman MK Ran Cohen, and his Labor counterpart MK Ra'anan Cohen.

Five die in weekend road accidents

FIVE people died and six were injured as a result of weekend traffic accidents.

Arif Turgeeman, 27, of Rishon LeZion died yesterday morning of injuries suffered when he was hit by a Dan company bus in Tel Aviv last week.

On Friday, an Australian tourist was killed and three other people suffered light to serious injuries in an accident near Kibbutz Nahshon, near the Latrun Junction. The accident occurred when the tourist, who worked as a sheep shearer at Mazkeret Bayta, was visiting the kibbutz along with another tourist and two Israelis. When the four left the kibbutz, their car overturned, killing the man and injuring the others. Police are investigating whether they were drunk at the time of the accident.

Early yesterday morning, two people were killed near Kibbutz Ein Gev, with one of them identified as Jinji Hameed, 21, of Kfar Shibli.

Meanwhile, a Kiryat Malachi

man, who was speeding, to the scene of an accident in which he had been told his father had been killed, escaped unhurt Thursday after his car overturned twice. Shafron Gabsi, 68, of Moshav Azrikam was killed when a semi-trailer driven by a Kfarit man backed up over him.

When his son, Eli, heard about the accident he jumped into his car and drove quickly down the winding road between the moshavim. Near Be'er Tuvia, he lost control and overturned twice, but escaped injury. The driver of the semi-trailer is to be charged with manslaughter.

A seven-year-old boy was seriously injured last night when he ran into the middle of the street in Ramle and was struck by a car. He was taken to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer. A four-year-old boy was seriously injured Friday when he was struck by the shovel of a tractor which fell on him. He was also taken to Tel Hashomer, and police launched an investigation into possible negligence. (Tm)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jamchee questioned about gambling
Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball player Doron Jamchee was questioned by police Thursday regarding the alleged illegal sports gambling operation. Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball team chairman Shimon Mizrahi, who accompanied Jamchee - who is also the captain of the Israeli national team - told Army Radio that police at the National Crimes Investigation Unit in Petah Tikva "wanted to check a few things with him, and that's what happened." Jamchee is the first basketball player to be interrogated about the matter, following the questioning of 11 National League soccer players in the past week. (Tm)

Casbah stabber caught
The stabber of Nissim Gidawi, the 72-year-old man attacked in the Hebron casbah on Wednesday, was arrested Friday by the Palestinian police in Bethlehem. Israel TV reported last night. Gidawi, from Kiryat Arba, was shopping in the Arab vegetable market when the assailant stabbed him in the back and fled. He was seriously wounded. The television identified the suspect as Iyad Salah, from Bethlehem, and quoted police sources as saying he was already being tried. The stabbing renewed demands from settlers and others to stop IDF redeployment from Hebron. (Jon Immanuel)

IDF shells S. Lebanon infiltrators
IDF artillery fired on gunmen attempting to infiltrate the security zone yesterday, security sources reported. It was the second time Israeli forces have been in action since the US-brokered cease-fire on April 26 that ended Operation Grapes of Wrath. The understanding does not preclude gunmen from attacking Israeli forces or the IDF firing back provided civilians and population centers are not targeted. The security sources said an outpost at Sojed named by the SLA spotted infiltrators in the Iqnaa Valley, in the zone's central sector. They called in Israeli artillery support and some 25 155mm howitzer shells were fired, the sources reported. (AP)

Taxi driver stabbed by Palestinians
A taxi driver was stabbed Friday afternoon by two Palestinians near Tulkarm. He was lightly injured. According to reports, the driver stopped his car to talk to the two Palestinians who flagged him down and offered to buy his car. During the conversation, they stabbed him in his body and head with a long screwdriver, then stole his car. Security forces arrived at the scene, treated the driver and began searches for the assailants. (Tm)

Peace Now visits Hebron
Peace Now activists paid a solidarity visit to Hebron yesterday, to press for an IDF withdrawal from the city. They had planned to tour the city, but were blocked by soldiers. Peace Now activist Prof. Galia Golan told her hosts, "We came to emphasize our determination to see an Israeli withdrawal from the city, as agreed in the Oslo accords." (Jon Immanuel)

Senior Saudi cleric blasts US, Israel in sermon

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) - In an unusually outspoken sermon, a leading Saudi cleric attacked Israel and the US, saying US-sponsored Middle East peace moves were biased in Israel's favor.

Addressing an estimated one million worshippers in the Grand Mosque in Mecca on Friday, Sheikh Saleh bin Hamid said it should come as no surprise if a new generation of Arab "terrorists" and "extremists" emerge as a result of last month's Israeli bombardment in Lebanon.

Sheikh Saleh's sermon, excerpts of which were published in Saudi newspapers yesterday, was exceptionally outspoken by the standards of Saudi Arabia, the US's closest Arab ally.

His remarks reflected Arab ire at the Clinton administration's failure to quickly halt the Israeli offensive. That, many Arabs argue, underlined what they perceive as the administration's lack of even-handedness in the Middle East.

"From the womb of these tragedies will come all sorts of violence, bloodshed... How can you rule out that terrorists and extremists will emerge from the corpses and destroyed houses?" he asked.

"What kind of peace is this one which will turn the region into a mine of cheap labor and a consumer market without a will of its own?"

Referring to the US as "the decision-making party," Sheikh Saleh said US Middle East policies "will not bring about peace and will not silence the oppressed."

Criticism of the US is rare in the oil-rich kingdom, whose government does not tolerate any form of dissent and exercises tight control over the media.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing
of our beloved

Dr. ALFRED ENGEL

Pediatrician and Honored Citizen of Jerusalem.

The funeral took place in Jerusalem
on Friday, May 3, 1996.

The Gluzman and Zohary families

The Goldmuntz Family
mourn the passing of

EDGART GOLDMUNTZ

May 2, 1996

WOLFRAM MARIA RAINER

Born on March 24th, 1956

Died on May 2nd, 1996

He was deeply attached to this country.

We will always be grateful
for our short time together.

Susanne and Clara

With deep sorrow we announce
the tragic death
of our colleague and friend

WOLFRAM RAINER

Counsellor and Head of the Legal Department
of the German Embassy, Tel Aviv

who was killed in a road accident on

May 2, 1996.

He loved this country and its people.

Ambassador Dr. Franz Bertele
and the Staff of the German Embassy,
Tel Aviv

سكنا من الاجل

Rubinstein to Netanyahu: Promise not to make Sharon defense minister

EDUCATION Minister Amnon Rubinstein on Wednesday challenged Likud chairman Benjamin Netanyahu to announce openly that "should be elected prime minister he will not appoint [Likud MK Ariel] Sharon to the post of defense minister."

Rubinstein's demand came in the wake of an affidavit by MK Ze'ev (Benny) Begin, which casts new doubt on Sharon's contention that he did not mislead the government in 1982, when he was defense minister, about the ultimate goals of Operation Peace for Galilee.

Sharon denied he had planned to reach Beirut from the outset, and said the offensive developed due to the situation on the ground. The government approved every phase of the war, he added.

Rubinstein maintained that Sharon had lied and misled late prime minister Menachem Begin, who agreed to a limited campaign

SARAH HONIG

of 40 kilometers into Lebanon. "Sharon is unfit to serve as defense minister and since he is now so high on the Likud list there is a distinct danger that he will be again appointed to the Defense Ministry.

"If Netanyahu is seeking the public's trust, he must then make clear that he will not again allow Sharon to a position from which he can mislead the government," Rubinstein said.

The official Likud line on the issue was stated by former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir in a radio interview over the holiday in which he argued that "no one is interested in events that took place 14 years ago while our house is burning right now. Israel's concern must be the abysmal present security situation and not events which are today irrelevant.

"We must dwell not on the past

but concentrate on existential issues in the present to assure our future."

According to Likud sources, Netanyahu has no intention of being provoked by Meretz. Another Meretz initiative, by its Knesset faction chairman Ran Cohen, has called for a state commission of inquiry to investigate Sharon's actions in 1982.

Netanyahu will not reply and Likud sources say he will do his best to keep the feud between Sharon and Begin and not get dragged into it, especially as he personally was not involved in the Lebanon war.

Nevertheless, several Likud sources have intimated that there is no intention of appointing Sharon as defense minister, and Sharon knows this and has no claims on the post.

However, for Netanyahu to declare this would be a severe blow to Sharon's prestige which Netanyahu has no interest in delivering.

Chirac: France won't rest until Lebanon's sovereignty restored

BEIRUT (Reuter) - French President Jacques Chirac began a historic visit to Lebanon yesterday, saying France would not rest until Lebanon's sovereignty was fully restored over all its territory.

On the first official visit by a French president to the Middle East country which was a French protectorate until 1943, Chirac told the Lebanese parliament France was deeply attached to its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"France will not cease to work for a just and global peace in the region. A peace which restores your country in all its sovereignty, over all its territory," Chirac told the packed house to rounds of applause.

About 35,000 Syrian troops

and 1,000 IDF soldiers are stationed in the country to maintain security in the aftermath of the 1975-90 civil war.

"I know your fear that a peace worked out elsewhere could decide Lebanon's fate and not allow it to recover its full sovereignty," Chirac said. "I am not ignorant of the reasons for this fear for the future..."

France believes Syria and Lebanon will sign peace deals with Israel in 1996, and Chirac indicated that France would watch over Lebanon's interests.

"Any peace which you do not freely adhere to and which does not recognize your sovereign rights will be a lost peace," Chirac said.

He repeated a French offer of troops to help guarantee the front

tier between Lebanon and Israel after they sign peace if the two countries requested.

France already has peacekeeping troops in the 4,650-member UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) which Chirac will visit today in the security zone.

Chirac told the parliament he felt a number of Lebanese feared

for the existence of their country, but he believed the time for reconciliation had come.

Referring to concerns of the Christian minority, which emerged defeated from the civil war, he urged all Lebanese to take part in parliamentary elections due in the autumn.

Likud campaign kicks off today

SARAH HONIG

THE Likud will kick off its election campaign this morning with a wide-ranging offensive headlined "zero security."

The title is inspired by a statement by Labor campaign chief Binjamin Ben-Eliezer, who, after the wave of bus bombings that "personal security in Israel is down to zero."

The campaign will begin with newspaper ads noting that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat this week released Awar Silani, the murderer of Lt.-Col. Meir Mintz, and [Prime Minister Shimon] Peres reacted by easing the closure on Gaza.

Peres, according to the Likud offensive, "is continuing his policy of failure and is allowing Arafat to set free those Hamas terrorists he had ostensibly placed under arrest immediately following the latest terrorist outrages."

Six of the 13 terrorists on the most-wanted list were never detained by Arafat, the Likud argues. The list had been submitted to Arafat after the bus bombings by Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

Of the seven taken into PLO custody, one has already been released and the others are due to be let loose in the next few days, Likud sources said.

Perry to Mubarak in Cairo: No US-Israel defense pact

CAIRO (Reuter) - US Defense Secretary William Perry discussed ways to fight Middle East militant violence with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak on Wednesday, and afterwards denied that the US had made any secret defense agreement with Israel.

"There have been some media reports of some sort of secret defense pact between the United States and Israel, and those reports are simply wrong," Perry told reporters after a 90-minute meeting with Mubarak.

"They are not true. Let me say that clearly and unequivocally," he said, adding that the US was committed not only to the security of Israel, but to its other friends in the area, including Egypt.

Perry, who flew to Cairo on Tuesday for talks on defense ties between Egypt and Washington, said he and Mubarak discussed militant violence in the region - including a threat by Hamas to continue suicide bombings in Israel.

The Pentagon has said previously that it is providing increased intelligence to Israel and other states to help fight militant groups opposed to the peace agreements between Israel and

the Palestinians.

Egyptian newspapers have said the US's role as an honest broker in the Middle East would be undermined by a security pact they say it will sign with Israel.

Asked whether the US supported Arab states in pressing Israel over its suspected nuclear weapons capability, Perry instead stressed US concern over weapons programs in Iran and Iraq.

"In the Middle East there are rogue nations, Iran and Iraq, who are trying to develop nuclear weapons, who are working to stop peace programs," he said.

"Any regional program to eliminate nuclear weapons has to be comprehensive and has to include all those nations."

Perry later met Defense Minister Mohammed Hussein Tantawi to discuss an agreement to sell 21 American F-16 fighter jets and a third naval frigate to Egypt in support of what Perry told reporters was "a keystone state" for peace in the Middle East.

The package, to be paid from Washington's \$1.3 billion annual military aid to Egypt, is part of continuing US efforts to back moderate Arab states.

Perry said in January that the US would lease 16 older F-16s to Jordan.

Osem workers help fund surgery for Lebanese girl

JUDY SIEGEL

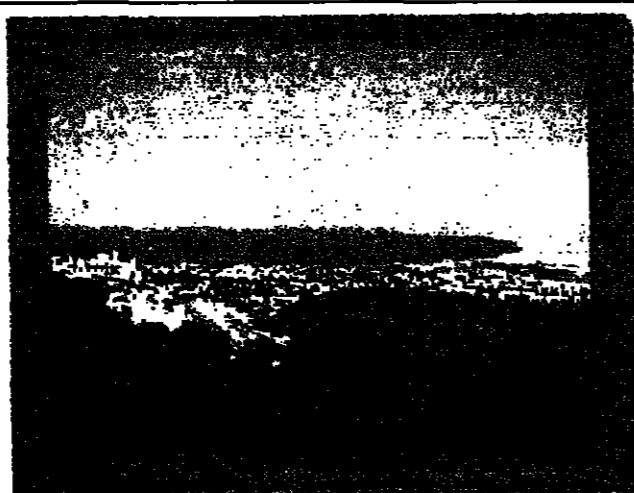
A 14-YEAR-OLD girl from southern Lebanon underwent a life-saving heart operation a few days ago at Beersheva's Soroka Hospital that was funded by Osem workers and the hospital.

Kiana Yunes, of Hatzbaya, was born with a serious congenital heart defect; her condition deteriorated in recent months.

Her father, who works at the Osem factory in Petah Tikva, tried to get another Israeli hospital to do the surgery. But, according to Soroka, he was unsuccessful. His fellow workers at Osem paid for most of the cost of surgery, while the hospital management reduced costs by 20 percent.

The operation was performed by a team from the cardiothoracic surgery department headed by Prof. Azzi Applebaum. The operation was without complications.

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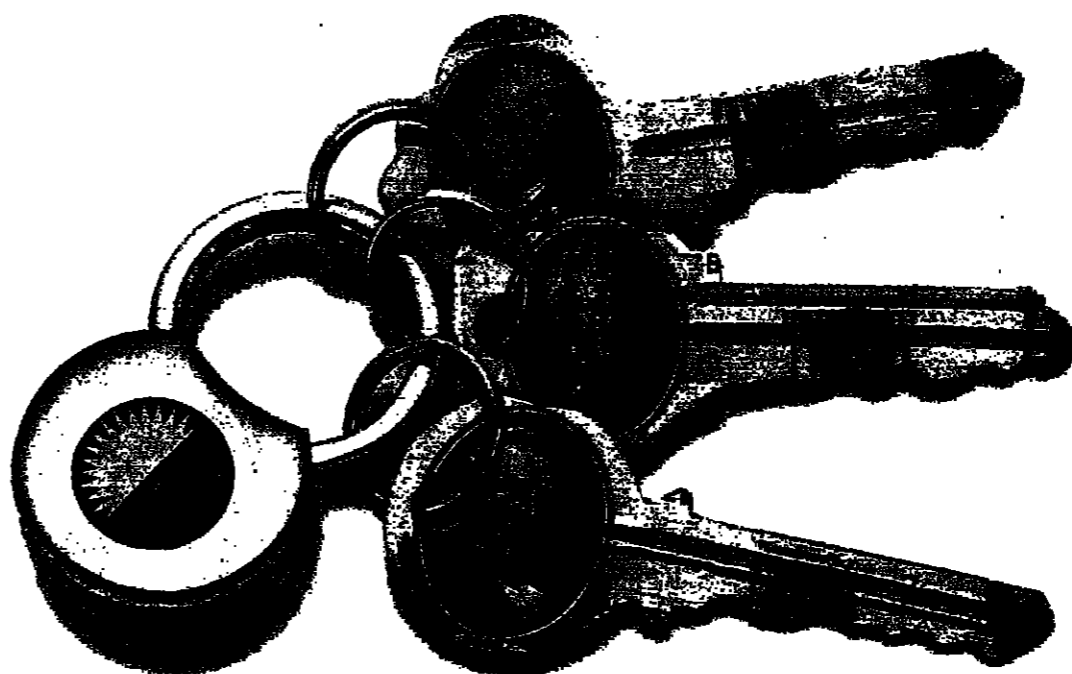
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Certification of a fraud

THERE is something almost amusing about President Bill Clinton's certification of the PLO's compliance with its commitments to Israel under the Oslo agreements. Not so much because this pro forma certification is a politically motivated exercise which has little to do with the facts, but because its language is almost identical with that of the State Department's laudatory report on the PLO last June.

At the time, the administration praised the PLO's great strides in restraining terrorism and punishing those responsible for carrying it out. "If measures such as those that were put into place during this reporting period are sustained, they will have a lasting effect on security and stability," said the report. And although the State Department was "unable to verify all of these claims of pre-emption of terrorism...we do have evidence that the PA is making a serious effort to prevent serious attacks."

Now it is known that all those highly praised PLO "measures" against terrorism were nothing more than a charade staged for the benefit of glib Western observers and the world media. The PLO's main efforts in the past year have been concentrated on persuading Hamas not to embarrass the Palestinian Authority by launching terrorist attacks at the wrong time and from the wrong areas. It has made no attempt to truly combat terrorism against Israel.

There is, however, a difference in the reaction of the American Jewish community to the administration's report. This time the Jewish lobby, AIPAC - without actually criticizing the President's report - has issued a statement citing PLO violations and demanding that Yasser Arafat "take further immediate and radical steps to comply fully with these commitments." This is the first time since the signing of the Oslo agreements that a major Jewish organization has joined the Zionist Organization of America - hitherto a lone voice in the Jewish establishment - in decrying PLO non-compliance.

The litany of what Yasser Arafat must do to truly comply with the Oslo agreements is well known. AIPAC points out that mass arrests of

Islamic radicals have been of short duration, with most of those arrested soon released. It says, too, that if Arafat wants to be viewed as a fighter against terrorism, he cannot have cordial relations with Hamas; he must eliminate the clauses in the Palestinian Covenant which call for dismantling Israel; and he cannot continue to use a logo in official documents depicting Israel as part of "Palestine."

Arafat must also stop praising terrorists as martyrs and heroes, cease the preposterous allegations of Israeli complicity in Islamic terror attacks against Israel, stop calling for jihad against Israel, stop threatening the renewal of armed conflict, and stop referring to the Oslo agreement as part of the "phased plan" to destroy Israel. The PLO must dismantle the terrorist organizations' infrastructure, arrest the leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and outlaw these organizations and confiscate their weapons.

That AIPAC has seen fit to differ from the administration on the issue of PLO compliance is encouraging. It means that its assessment of the facts on the ground is more realistic than it has been. In fact, it reflects what Israelis think of Arafat's efforts.

According to a Gallup poll commissioned three weeks ago by Independent Media Review and Analysis (IMRA), less than seven percent of Israel's Jews believe Arafat has kept his obligations, while an overwhelming majority of respondents (over 90%) said that Arafat had either not met them at all or has done "less than necessary." Even of those who had voted for Meretz in 1992, 71% said Arafat had done less than necessary and 5.7% said he had done nothing.

Such opinions among people who pay in blood for Arafat's policies should give Clinton pause. True, the US has bet all its chips on Arafat, and Clinton lent presidential prestige to the famous handshake. In fact, the whole Oslo process depends on Arafat's survival (which in itself renders the agreement hopelessly flawed). But agreements based on fraud cannot last, and there is no greater fraud than Arafat's "war on terrorism."

Ron Brown

THE death of US Commerce Secretary Ron Brown in Bosnia tragically removes one of the most dynamic members of President Bill Clinton's cabinet. The tributes pouring into Washington from all over the world are all the warmer because most of those leaders sending them have seen this fast-moving American official personally engaged in helping their countries, in line with his vision that trade is a powerful tool for ending conflict.

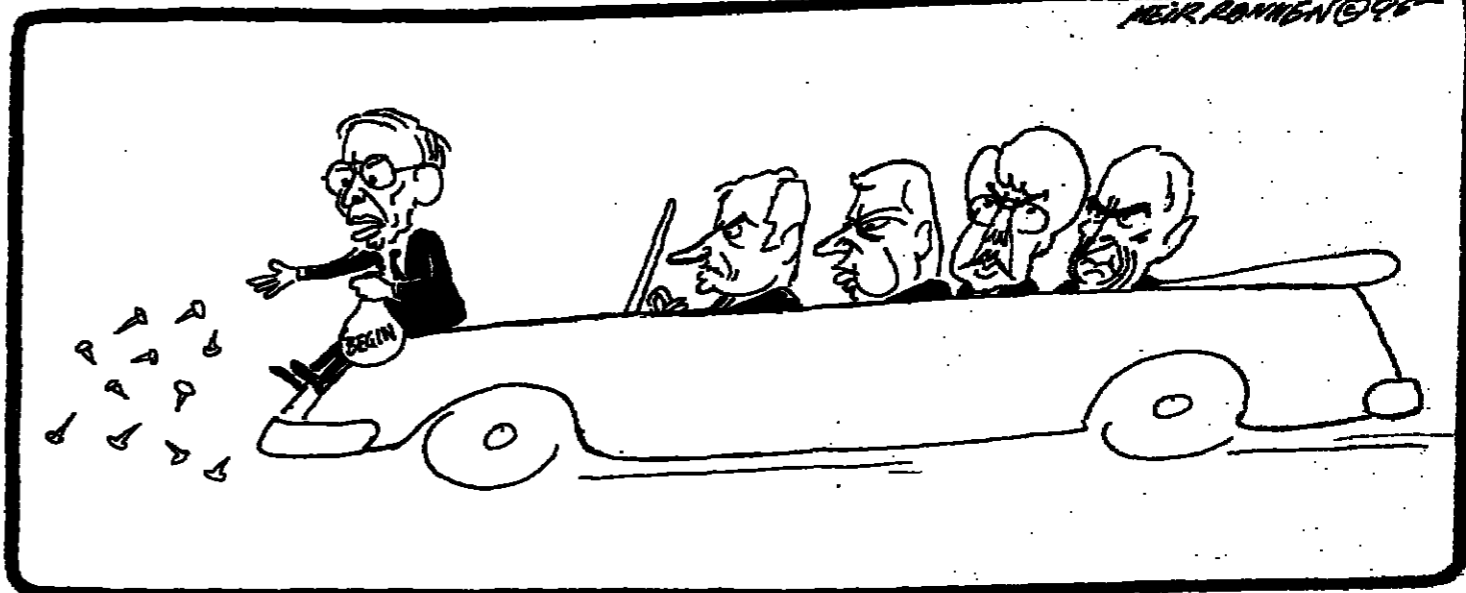
From the Middle East to Northern Ireland, South Africa, India and Hong Kong, the senior national leaders expressed their awe at Brown's dynamic involvement in trying to help them - "a real mover and shaker, he was just so committed to us" said Northern Ireland's Economics Minister Baroness Denton. South Africa's Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said there was no individual in such a powerful position in the world who showed so much interest in the newly democratic country.

Ron Brown emerged from the poverty of

black Harlem to become one of the most brilliant politicians in the United States and probably its finest ever trade minister. He was the first black American to chair one of the two major parties and was the driving force behind the Democrats' campaign that won President Clinton the 1992 election.

As commerce secretary, Brown carried out a department overhaul that was compared with the remaking of General Motors. The once derided 36,000-strong bureaucracy was honed into an aggressive promoter of American exports. Across the country corporate CEOs expressed satisfaction with his unrelenting drive.

As President Clinton has so often and so warmly identified with tragedy here, all Israelis will have no hesitation in endorsing Prime Minister Shimon Peres's expression of grief at "the loss of a true friend of Israel, a man who contributed so much," and at the terrible loss of 32 other business leaders and officials in the Bosnian crash.



Conceptual bondage

MARK A. HELLER

In the summer of 1967, Israel had just won a quick, elegant victory, and the United States was still stuck in the quagmire of Vietnam. Desperate for some way to end the war and stop the blood-letting, President Lyndon Johnson - so the story goes - turned to Levi Eshkol and offered a trade: General Motors and General Electric for General Dayan and General Rabin. It's just an Israeli joke, of course, typical of the self-congratulatory mood of those days, but it is relevant to the pseudo-debate about Lebanon that goes on for a few days after every major outbreak of violence in the North.

True, Lebanon is no longer the quagmire for Israel that it was before 1985, but it remains a constant source of aggravation and pain, like Chinese water torture. The events of the past few weeks simply confirm a timeworn pattern: when attacks against the IDF and/or SLA inside the security zone can no longer be ignored, Israel responds by striking at Hizbullah personnel or facilities north of the zone, and when these actions produce damage or casualties to the civilian population there, Hizbullah responds by launching Katyushas into northern Israel. At this point, politicians declare that the situation is intolerable, it cannot continue, and something must be done.

But the government is in a bind, because Hizbullah generally plays by the rules which Israel accepted at the end of Operation Accountability in 1993, and it sees no reason to assume that another

campaign of that sort would be any more decisive this time. Hence, it has little to suggest except more of the same futile mix of diplomatic appeals, vague threats and low-intensity combat on the ground, until that far-off day when a comprehensive agreement with Syria is signed, ratified by the Knesset, approved in a referendum, and implemented.

necessary to concede the limited utility of military force or to consider the logical flaws of strategy based on the fallacy of the last move. It's enough to sound tough.

It would be comforting to think that it is the election campaign that prevents a more sober discussion of this problem, but even between elections there is another alterna-

There is another alternative that should be considered but never is - leaving Lebanon.

The opposition, of course, does not feel bound by either the established rules or the political scenario. Instead, it demands security now, and its recipe is simple: unleash the IDF and let Israel's generals solve this problem, just as - so the old story implies - they could have solved the problem of Vietnam. The rest of us are not told what the critics think removing restraints would mean - more artillery and air power, temporary ground operations north of the zone, permanent enlargement of the zone (up to 40 kilometers?).

But the government is in a bind, because Hizbullah generally plays by the rules which Israel accepted at the end of Operation Accountability in 1993, and it sees no reason to assume that another

alternative that should be considered but never is - leaving Lebanon. There are weighty reasons against a unilateral withdrawal. Israel's image and self-image would suffer if it were seen to be chased out, and it cannot afford, either as a moral or a practical matter, to leave without making provisions for its Lebanese allies. But the major argument against a pullout seems to be the belief that if the IDF doesn't stay and fight north of the border, even more Israelis, including civilians, will be killed south of the border.

This assumption comes from viewing Lebanon through an obsolete, looking-glass, fashioned in the 1970s and early '80s, when southern Lebanon was controlled by Palestinian militias, guerrillas, commandos and assorted other

terrorists and gangsters dedicated to the "liberation of Palestine." But since then (and largely as a result of the 1982 invasion), these Palestinians have been displaced by Lebanese, whose objective is to liberate Lebanon.

Of course, there can be no iron-clad guarantee that peace and quiet will prevail along the northern border if the security zone is put out of business. Some Hizbullah fanatics may always want to strike a blow for jihad, but its rank-and-file will surely be less committed to getting Israel out of Lebanon. And the Lebanese government, which will almost certainly deploy in the south with Syrian approval, will have both the incentive and the ability to prevent Hizbullah military action and avoid the Israeli retaliation that would threaten its own new-found control in the south.

In short, there is every likelihood that the situation would be preferable to the current low-level war that promises a few casualties every week, with no end in sight. For years, the main obstacle to a fundamental reassessment of Israeli policy in Lebanon has been enslavement to old thinking on both sides of the political divide. If we can free ourselves of this conceptual bondage, then perhaps next Pesach, we can also celebrate our departure from Lebanon.

Mark Heller is a senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

An empty peace

ARIEL SHARON

Israel wants peace. We all want peace. Indeed, Israel has already signed two peace treaties. One with Egypt, concluded by the Likud under Menachem Begin with Labor's support, and one with Jordan, signed by Labor headed by Yitzhak Rabin with the Likud's support. We paid a heavy price for these peace treaties, and we signed them only after ensuring that our security would not be compromised.

Today, after a few years of intensive brainwashing, it seems that no one asks about the meaning of peace, or the price of peace, or the dangers to Israel's very existence from the peace we seem eager to achieve, at any price, with Arafat and Syria. Most important, no one asks if the Arabs truly want peace with Israel. And those who dare wonder about these things are instantly labeled "yesterday's man," "an enemy of peace," "panic monger," and worse.

Our streets are flooded with slogans: "Peace will win," "A whole generation demands peace." And Arafat answers them in Stockholm, speaking before 40 Arab diplomats: "We shall cause Israel's collapse after we bring millions of Palestinian refugees allowed to return according to the Oslo agreement...we shall make the Jews' lives so difficult that they will want to emigrate."

We are strong. We must combat terrorism but continue with the peace process," say many government ministers. But then the

Katyushas fall in Nahariya and Kiryat Shmona without Israeli response, and the Hizbullah leader in Lebanon, with unmitigated gall, instructs Galilee inhabitants to go down to their shelters for three days until the Hizbullah's revenge is complete.

The inhabitants, whom the government can no longer protect, dutifully obey the order, and the government, this time less cocky,

and cut the ribbon. What could be better a month before the elections?

But Egypt and Arafat, apparently in the name of peace, persuaded Tunisia to withdraw from this agreement. The prime minister was forced to be satisfied with a "historic" trip to Oman, with which we have had close relations for 20 years, and which has already been visited by an Israeli

No one asks if the Arabs truly want peace with Israel.

asks for American help. At the government meeting this week it was noted with satisfaction that Syria has acceded to Israel's pleas, conveyed to Damascus through the US. This is how the government valiantly fights terrorism on its way to peace.

"Peace is a vital component in Israel's security," the government declares. And it is answered by a joint Syrian-Egyptian declaration announcing their collaboration in a concerted effort to neutralize Israel's nuclear capability for the purpose of enabling us. In preparation for the elections, the US exerted all the influence at its command to pressure Tunisia to let Israel open an embassy there. The prime minister was supposed to land in Tunis

premier, and to Qatar, a one-for-one oil-company emirate. The visit may be important, but it hardly contributes to Israel's security.

"Peace, peace," the people shout, oblivious to the awful dangers to Israel's very existence. "Give us peace so we can enjoy traveling, shopping, gambling." What happens tomorrow doesn't matter, as long as we can have peace now.

The day after the terrible bombing in Jerusalem, presumably responding to the Israeli pining for peace, Arafat's newspaper *El Hayat al Jadida* wrote: "It may be possible to extract political objectives from the Israeli bodies, and turn them into liberated Palestinian land."

THERE IS not one word about peace among Arabs. In the Arab press there isn't even a hint of a desire for reconciliation. And here the youth are force-fed the notion that the Arabs want peace the way we do, that they are our friends, our comrades, our allies.

"Peace which entails ruling another people will not achieve security for Israel," the government declares, and it receives an immediate response on the Taiba football field. A mob of thousands of Palestinians - citizens of Israel, not the unemployed in Gaza, nor the "hungry" in Hebron - riots and yells "Death to the Jews, we are all Yihye Ayyash." And again the government does not respond. It wants peace, and besides it's pre-election time, so Taiba favors it with another reminder within the week, this time in Ramat Gan. It seems we will have to withdraw from Taiba, too. And what about Tira, Umm el-Fahm, Nazareth, Sakninia? Israeli Arabs are already demanding "cultural autonomy." And this is just the beginning.

And perhaps this nation will open its eyes and understand that the Palestinians and Syrians, and perhaps Arabs in general, do not yet want peace. And perhaps the nation will rise at last against the national suicide to which this failing and dangerous government is leading all of us.

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former defense minister.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CRUCIAL WARS

Sir, - It is always with great pleasure that I read Susan Hattis Rolef's well-balanced articles. I wish to thank her most warmly for her article of March 12. "Those other crucial wars." It expresses my feelings to a T.

People have been very concerned, and rightly so, about the suffering caused by the suicide bombings. However, why do they hesitate in a moment of confusion, then respond weakly, when I point out their almost total indifference to many other causes of suffering in Israel such as wife-battering and the carnage on the roads?

MICKEY LOEB

Omer.

Sir, - Hats off to your editorial page editor. Entitling Mitchell Bard's column on March 12 "Sheer stupidity" and placing it next to Susan Hattis Rolef's was perfect. If ever there were a column demonstrating sheer stupidity, it was hers.

Perhaps seeing 60 families distraught because their loved ones have been blown to bits doesn't deserve mass hysteria. (In countless conversations over the last two weeks, intense anger is the term I would use to describe what I have heard. Perhaps her friends are more prone to hysteria than mine.) Yes, Ms. Rolef, I, and most of us, condemn bad driving, spouse battering, rape, incest and a host of other crimes, dangerous practices and socially unacceptable traits that you cite. (And my reaction to your list of

horrors has nothing to do with the race, religion, national origin or sex of the victim or perpetrator.)

But, a mass movement, sponsored by nations bent on destroying, killing and maiming us, give tacit support to our peace partner and treated too leniently by our government until recently is just not the same thing.

Many of us are very angry, but not hysterical, because we wanted peace, voted for and trusted our government, accepted its claims that the Palestinian Authority would work, supported withdrawal, listened to people such as Ms. Rolef say how this would work for the best and now find that the terror since the Oslo agreement is the worst in our country's history. At the *shiva* call I made for two of the victims, sadness was the dominant emotion.

Trying to shift our focus is "Sheer stupidity."

Ra'anaana. STEPHEN J. KOHN

JUSTICE

Sir, - I would like to congratulate the courts on their alacrity in bringing to trial and judging Yigal Amir. I wonder why the same criteria were not applied to the Aryeh Deri case which has been dragging on for years and completely disappeared from public view. Could there be by any chance a political motivation? One hopes that justice will be pursued regardless, and all cases will be given the same unbiased treatment.

DAVID BRASS

Netanya.

COURAGEOUS LEADER

Sir, - The American Jewish community is lucky to have one leader who is not afraid to speak the truth: Morton Klein, National President of the ZOA. Mr. Klein has been depicted by many including those in leadership positions. These so-called leaders have the same negative cowardly attitude displayed by their predecessors 55-60 years ago. They have not learned one lesson from the past and are willing to sacrifice Israel, Jerusalem, and the tenets of Judaism in order to appease political opportunists.

When will more leaders join Mr. Klein in his courageous attempts to bring reason to the US role in the Middle East and to assure that Arafat stops his duplicity?

Philadelphia. LOIS K. LEVY

HAMAS INSTITUTIONS

Sir, - While Hamas must be destroyed, the question remains: what is to be done with the clinics, schools and other potentially useful institutions that it operates?

These should be seized and operated by the Palestinian Authority, in the same way that the US government occasionally takes over organizations linked to organized crime. The donor nations should redirect a portion of their funding to the PA for this purpose, along with strict oversight to ensure that the institutions are purged of their radical Islamic and anti-Israeli character.

PAUL KUJAWSKY

Studio City, California.

POSTSCRIPTS

MORE HIGHLIGHTS from "101 Bizarre Book Titles," reprinted from *The Sun* in London:

- Highlights in the History of Concrete (1994)
- The Joy of Chickens (1980)
- Simply Busting: A Guide to Bladder Control (1995)
- Cooking With God (1978)
- Practical Infectious Diseases (1983)
- Natural Bust Enlargement With Total Power: How To Use the Other 90% of Your Mind to Increase the Size of Your Breasts (1985)
- Last Chance At Love - Terminal Romance (1981)

- American Bottom Archeology (1993)
- Iceberg Utilization (1978)
- Liturgy of the Opening of the Mouth for Breathing (1993)
- Cannibalism and the Common Law: A Victorian Yachting Tragedy (1995)
- Mucus and Related Topics (1995)
- Biochemist's Songbook (1981)
- Butchering Livestock at Home (1994)
- Nasal Maintenance: Nursing Your Nose Through Troubled Times (1983)

(Watch this space for more...)

A BABYSITTER is suing a four-year-old and his parents, complaining that the boy crushed her larynx and left her unable to talk.

Erica Bailey, 21, of Dallas, claims that Connor Schaars hit her in the throat while she was talking to the boy's older brother. She's claiming \$177,000 in damages.

The boy hit Bailey when she did not join him in a game of checkers he demanded.

She claims she lost her voice for four months, enrolled in sign language classes and had to drop out of college.

She has regained "some kind of voice, but it's not the same," her lawyer said.

Connor's parents are flabbergasted.

"I thought it was too bizarre to be true," said Theo Schaars.

SASKATCHEWAN can claim the honor of North America's "People of the Book."

According to a report on library use, the province placed both of its cities, Regina and Saskatoon, in the top 10 among 343 North American cities. Of course, that may say something about a lack of anything else to do in Canada's Prairies.

Immigrant power

YOSEF GOELL

The same opinion polls that have been showing Labor's Shimon Peres leading the Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu by a narrow but sufficient lead to clinch the premiership, have also been showing Labor and the Likud, and their respective blocs, in a neck and neck race for the Knesset.

If this predicted standoff between the two blocs holds true on May 29, the elections may well result in a popularly elected Prime Minister Peres who will be unable to form a government coalition based only on Labor, Meretz and the Arab parties. Were Netanyahu to win, which is far from impossible, he too would find it impossible to form a majority government based only on his Likud, Molechet and the religious parties.

In such a situation the small parties in the middle, which under the new rules of the game have been denied the power to determine who will be prime minister, would still have the final say in determining the makeup of the coalition government.

The religious parties played this crucial political role for many years. More recently, they have lost part of that power because most religious voters have become closely identified with the Right. In the current elections, the new Third Way and the Yisrael Ba'aliya party of former Soviet immigrants may well perform that indispensable pivotal role between the two major blocs.

The Third Way, however, has so far failed to break out of the mold of a single issue party - that of opposition to withdrawal from the Golan Heights in any deal with Syria - and to broaden its appeal to wider segments of the electorate.

More sadly, it has also fallen victim to the "Dash (Democratic Movement for Change) Syndrome" in which the overweening personal ambitions of those competing for a place on the party's list have torpedoed the

possibility of optimizing its vote-drawing capacity. The polls have been giving it anywhere between two and four seats in the next Knesset, which might prove insufficient to grant it the role of indispensable swing party.

YISRAEL BA'ALIYA is a different story, but first I should take this opportunity to correct a mistake I made in my column of March 22 when I wrote that "...Natan Sharan's Yisrael Ba'aliya party which originally touted itself as a party that would

Yisrael Ba'aliya could become the critical swing party in the next Knesset

also angle for the non-Russian vote... instead giving an exclusive Russian list, thus playing a broader role for a narrower but safer one."

I was basing myself on media reports of the before midnight results of the voting for the party's list. But in the voting for the list's second "troika" which continued past media deadlines, Zvi Weinberg, a ex-Canadian professor of French literature at Bar Ilan University and a veteran Soviet aliya activist, was elected to the number five slot after Sharan's, beating out 21 other candidates. The polls have been giving Yisrael Ba'aliya five to six seats so Weinberg may well be in the next Knesset.

The immigrants from the former Soviet Union who arrived over the past six years number about 750,000, well over 13 percent of the electorate, or the equivalent of 16 Knesset seats. The Izpitt organization, which specializes in surveying this gigantic community of

newcomers puts the proportion who say they will vote for Sharan's party at 37-42 percent. This would mean about six to eight Knesset seats. Reaching such a size would certainly qualify Yisrael Ba'aliya to become the critical swing party in the next Knesset.

Party activists meanwhile expect their popularity will grow even larger due to the "slap in the face" delivered to Russian immigrants by last week's failure of both major parties to include even one of their representatives in a realistic place on their lists.

But Yisrael Ba'aliya does have its detractors. Veteran Israelis and many new immigrants from the Soviet Union dismiss such an unabashed ethnic party as illegitimate in a melting pot Israel. This is a strange argument in a political system which has all along abetted religious, haredi, Arab and North African ethnic lists. A list of new Russian immigrants is no less legitimate than any of these other long-time inhabitants of our political map. The Russians are not only recent newcomers; they are different from most other waves of immigrants due to their extraordinary political sophistication.

Although pollsters are agreed that a significant majority of former Soviet immigrants tend to the hawkish positions of the Right as opposed to Labor and the Left, Sharan's and his followers have refused to endorse either Peres or Netanyahu.

And the party's middle of the road position of supporting the peace process in principle while insisting on more stringent conditions and quid pro quos than those demanded from Arafat and Assad by the Peres government, may well recommend it to many frustrated non-Russian centrist voters who find themselves confronted by the need to choose between cholera and the plague.

The writer comments on public affairs.



An ultimatum to God

YOSEF LAPID

WHEN people asked me if I believed in God, I'd answer that I didn't believe in the Almighty but I do believe in the God of Israel. However, now, I'm not so sure of that.

I do not believe in the God whom I regard as a fiction invented by Man to help him face his existential distress and fear of the Unknown; but I do believe in the God of Israel. Not in the way religious Jews do, but as an idea, a symbol unifying the immense heritage of the Jewish People.

The God of Israel is Jewish wisdom accumulated over the generations; He is that spark of genius which ignited monotheism in the brain of Moses and the Theory of Relativity in Einstein's mind.

The God of Israel is the bitter Jewish destiny binding us to each other with the fetters of suffering. Israel's God is our collective memory; He sits in the rear cockpit of a Phantom fighter-bomber, and hides in a tomato growing in the Arava.

And the God of Israel is the mystic force which impels to the Seder table millions of Jews in Tel Aviv and New York, Toronto and Buenos Aires, Rabat and Paris, London and Moscow, Sydney and Johannesburg - all lifting their eyes toward Jerusalem.

This God, this kind of god, is the greatest invention of Jewish genius. Not for nothing did they quip at Oxford: "How odd of God

to choose the Jews: it's not so odd, the Jews chose God!" It is not Man who was created in the image of God - God is the image of Man. It was not You who chose us, but we who chose You. And it was a hard choice.

THE GOD of the Jews in whom I believe does not ask if I eat piggot at Passah; he asks if I am concerned

cial God, of one people, of a unique people.

But He is a humane God. That is His most outstanding quality. As long as that attribute is preserved, I live at peace with Him. He has imbued His people with tolerant wisdom which relates compassionately to human frailties, with the sagacity to weigh the desirable against the realistic. He is a God

As long as Jews behaved as Jews, I was prepared to believe in Him

about the fate of the Jews of Sarajevo. He permits me to travel on the Sabbath, but insists I should accept with open arms every Jew who immigrates to Israel. He also gets by without my prayers but expects me to remember Jerusalem. And He knows that only two important events have occurred since the destruction of the Temple: the Holocaust and the emergence of the State of Israel. There is such a God.

Israel's God worries only about Jews; He knows that there are children starving to death in Somalia but they are not within His purview. He has never visited China, does not get involved in the war in Bosnia. He is not universal, nor cosmopolitan, and is not a tender soul: He is a provin-

who believes in persuasion, is ready for compromise, cautions against extremism, recoils from violence, understands that Life is the art of the possible.

The Jews of this particular God can argue, fight and even hate, but they do not strike, shoot nor smash infants' brains against a wall, bury their foes alive, nor kill their leaders. There is a long catalogue of things the gentiles do, but not Jews.

That was my contract with the God of the Jews: as long as his people behaved in a humane mode, as long as Jews behaved as Jews, I was prepared to believe in Him.

BUT THIS is where the schism started.

For some years now, there has arisen in our Holy Land a breed of Jews the like of whom we have not known, ever, anywhere. Merciless Jews, attacking, destructive Jews, killers, murderers. Jews who believe anything is allowed in the name of God. And not just permitted, but actually imperative. And not just imperative, but also holy.

These Jews perpetrate terrible deeds and are ready to do even more horrible things; they are not humane, like the haredim whose grotesque worship of their deities bothers no one. They are cool, they shoot and smile; and they are convinced, like those Moslems who kill themselves in order to slay in the name of Allah, that everything they do is for the sanctification of the Almighty.

Jean-Paul Sartre wrote in *Words* that "for some years I maintained relations publicly with the Lord of the Universe; but privately I stopped keeping contact with Him."

And so, I hereby deliver an ultimatum to the God of Israel: either You abandon these Jews who perform awful deeds relying on You and are preparing, in Your name, even worse atrocities, or I break off contact with You.

And in the words of Heinrich Heine, You should forgive me, for this is my profession.

The writer is a journalist with the daily Ma'ariv.

The new philanthropy

BEN Z. SOSEWITZ
MELVYN H. BLOOM

Contrary to recent media reports and much hand-wringing in the American Jewish community, gifts to philanthropies supporting Israel are not ebbing; they are shifting to those institutions that represent the new Zionism now applying. The Zionism defined by a one-way, donor-recipient relationship between America and Israel is giving way to a new relationship with Israel will be built on shared values and interests and on a new form of partnership with a thriving Israel.

Historically, American Jews supported fund-raising campaigns for Israel to reclaim the land and provide a home for immigrants and a haven for Holocaust victims and other refugees from oppression. It's a far different Israel now. There are 62 Israeli companies quoted on US stock exchanges; a number surpassed only by Canada. Multinational corporations are setting up companies in Israel at an impressive pace, with the computer giant Intel the latest to invest in operations that will generate an estimated \$1 billion in revenues a year.

If until now fund-raising for Israel was based on bad news, then does the good news coming out of Israel mean that its centrality in our lives will erode? Recently, the prominent Israeli author A.B. Yehoshua bluntly told a group of American Jewish supporters: "We don't need you!" We don't believe that.

WE BELIEVE Israel needs us now as much as ever, but differently than before. It needs us as hands-on partners in its road to economic independence. The American Jewish community is already evolving a new Zionism, one based on positive motivations

as powerful as the earlier fears. Organizations that rely on the "good news campaign" of the new Zionism attract enthusiastic supporters.

Some organizations that support Israel's universities, for example, have been at the forefront of successful fund-raising. In the past decade, our organization, the American Society for Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, registered cumulative growth of 218 percent and raised more than \$323 million, including nearly \$200m. in the last five years.

Why are these organizations successful? One reason is that their campaigns are clearly based on "good news." Israeli universities are among the best in the world and supporters want to be associated with excellence. They also find it easy to respond to these organizations' message: Israel has only one significant natural resource - its brainpower - and the country's educational institutions are the ones developing this resource.

If the new model for Israel-Diaspora relations calls for a move away from traditional forms of philanthropy and toward part-

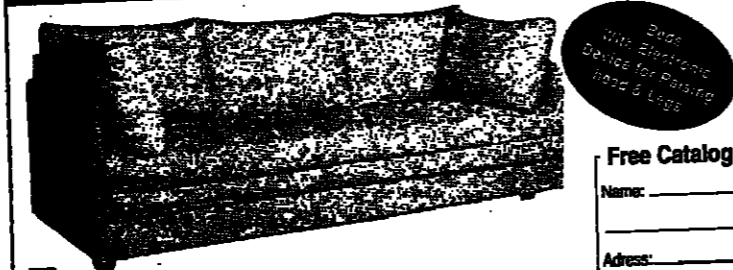
nership, higher education provides one such model. Supporters can see the visible results of their investments not only in the students whose scholarships they fund or the professors whose chairs they endow; they can also see it in the young stars who come out of these universities and establish and manage companies that drive the economy, conduct cutting-edge research, and take leadership roles in Israel's government and other institutions.

And while Israel has the third fastest growing gross national product in the world, the country will join First World nations only if we help it continue to invest heavily in education, research and infrastructure.

The fear-driven 20th century warning that the nation's survival means sacrificial philanthropy is being supplanted by a praiseworthy 21st century Zionism that calls for active, hands-on partnership. The new thriving Israel can be as much of a magnet drawing support from American Jewry as a beleaguered Israel struggling for survival had been.

The writers are the national president of the American Society for Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and its executive vice president.

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Unabomber suspect Ted John Kaczynski is arrested by FBI agents in Helena, Montana, late Wednesday night. Inset photo is from his graduating yearbook at Harvard in 1962. (Reuters)

Unabomber suspect is former math professor

HELENA, Montana (AP) - A former Berkeley math professor suspected of being the Unabomber was charged yesterday with possessing the components of a bomb found in a search of his mountain cabin. FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents found "a partially completed pipe bomb" and chemicals and "diagrams and notes" for making pipe bombs in the home of Theodore John Kaczynski, according to an affidavit by FBI agent Donald J. Sachtleben.

Kaczynski, 53, appeared in federal court late yesterday morning to hear the felony charges lodged against him. The initial charge made no mention of the Unabomber's 18-year string of bombing attacks. Federal officials said it was designed to hold Kaczynski while agents put together a detailed case.

Sachtleben wrote that agents had found a cylindrical object

wrapped in paper in a loft in the cabin.

"An X-ray of the package revealed what appears to me to be a partially completed pipe bomb, including threaded pipe, wire and other electrical components," Sachtleben wrote.

The Unabomber is thought to be responsible for three deaths and 23 injuries since 1978. The FBI gave the case the code name "Unabom" because early targets were universities and airlines.

Ten three-ring binders were recovered filled with "page after page of meticulous writings and sketches which I recognize to be diagrams of explosive devices," Sachtleben wrote. The diagrams show cross-sections of pipe bombs and electrical circuitry.

In addition, agents found galvanized metal, copper and plastic pipes, four of them with copper plates sealing one end, "one of the

first steps in the construction of a pipe bomb," Sachtleben wrote.

Also recovered were potassium chlorate, sodium chlorate, aluminum powder, lead powder and silver oxide powder, all of which can be used in bombs, he added. Three rolled-up pieces of paper appeared to contain "logs of experiments to determine the optimum pipe dimension and combination of explosive materials in various weather conditions," Sachtleben wrote.

Kaczynski was taken into custody by federal agents Wednesday so they could search the cabin 80 kilometers northwest of here. He was not immediately placed under arrest or charged.

"FBI agents had been staking out Kaczynski's hand-built cabin near the Continental Divide for several weeks, ever since relatives in the Chicago area notified authorities that they had stumbled across

some of his old writings and found them similar to the Unabomber's anarchist manifestoes.

A former assistant professor of mathematics at the University of California at Berkeley, Kaczynski graduated from Harvard when he was barely 20, and received a master's degree and doctorate from the University of Michigan several years later. Academic-oriented and obsessed with technology, he fits the FBI profile of the suspect.

The cabin, with no electricity or plumbing, had been Kaczynski's home for about a dozen years. Neighbors said he was a loner and a recluse, going everywhere on foot or on an old bicycle.

The Unabomber's spree began at Northwestern University in suburban Chicago in May 1978. The most recent of 16 attacks came April 24, 1995, when a timber industry executive was killed in Sacramento, California.

Doctors warn of more brain disease

LONDON (Reuters) - Three separate teams of scientists warn that people can probably get mad cow disease from eating beef and predicted there would be more cases among those who tucked into sausages and burgers in the 1980s.

The scientists, experts on dementia and brain diseases such as Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), are new to the public debate over beef and brain disease. The warnings come today in the first publication of the report that last month prompted the British government to admit to possible links between beef and CJD, and in two letters to the respected *Lancet* medical journal.

The expert doctors describe for the first time the new form of the fatal CJD.

Experts at the National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh said they feared the 10 victims of the new variant had become infected by eating beef and warned that more cases could arise.

Mad cow disease, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), reached epidemic proportions in British herds in the 1980s and still infects thousands.

The government at first denied that people could get the disease by eating beef, but last month said it was possible after seeing an advance copy of the report from the CJD Unit.

The European Union agreed tough measures on Wednesday to restore consumer confidence in beef because of the scare, but Britain was furious at its refusal to lift a ban on its cattle-related exports.

Britain's belief that the worldwide ban was not based on sound scientific grounds was given support by scientists meeting at the World Health Organisation.

They said there was no proven link between mad cow disease and CJD and that, provided safety measures were followed, humans were not in danger.

The EU's plan is likely to mean the mass slaughter of at least 700,000 British cattle a year over the next six years to ensure that mad cow disease cannot enter the human food chain.

Judge orders ex-Nazi to stand trial in Italy

ROME (AP) Sweeping aside a "just-following-orders" defense, a military judge ordered former Nazi SS Capt. Erich Priebke to stand trial for helping massacre 335 civilians in World War II.

Relatives of the victims attending the closed hearing burst into applause at the decision tomorrow by Judge Giuseppe Mazzi. Priebke "didn't blink an eye," said one of their lawyers, Pietro Nicotera.

Trial was set for May 8, the 51st anniversary of the end of WWII. Mazzi turned down a defense request for house arrest, and Priebke was returned to jail after the hearing.

The indictment of Priebke, 82, ends two years of uncertainty over his fate. He was arrested in Argentina and fought extradition for more than a year before being sent to Italy last fall.

Mazzi had indicated he was seriously considering ruling in Priebke's favor for "extenuating circumstances."

But in the end he ignored

Priebke's arguments: advanced age, a blameless life in Argentina for decades, the threat of death if he disobeyed orders and the belief he was carrying out a legitimate wartime reprisal for the killing of German soldiers.

"The trial will demonstrate Priebke's responsibility in the crime," prosecutor Antonino Inteliano.

Priebke admitted killing two victims, and said he called out the names of 100 of the people who were then shot at the Ardeatine Caves outside Rome in 1944. The victims included Roman Catholic priests, a 14-year-old boy and 75 Jews.

Priebke told the court on Wednesday that the ultimate responsibility lay with the participants who carried out the bombing attack.

The indictment charges Priebke with "taking part in violence with continuous homicide," a military code charge that brings life in prison.

On the sixth anniversary of the tragic death of our beloved

Capt. ILAN KAUFMAN ילן

who fell in the line of duty, a memorial service will be held on Thursday, April 11, at 12 noon at the Savoyon Cemetery.

The Family

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JOSEPH KUTTNER

Sonya and Ehud Federman
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IRA stays defiant

BELFAST (Reuters) - The IRA ignored pleas yesterday to call a new truce and insisted it has a right to wage war against British rule over Northern Ireland.

Their defiant message, issued in the run-up to the volatile "marching season" when pro-British Protestants and pro-Irish Catholics took to the streets, cast further gloom on Anglo-Irish peace efforts in the troubled province.

In London security services were on alert after intelligence warnings about Irish Republican Army threats prompted the government to rush in counter-insurgency measures.

Security services fear the IRA might strike to coincide with weekend parades in both Irelands marking the 80th anniversary of the IRA's "Easter Rising" against British rule in Dublin.

In the east London Docklands area, where the IRA detonated a bomb killing two by-standers on February 9, a security source told Reuters: "Security has been increased 100 percent in the last two days in anticipation of renewed bombings to commemorate the Easter 1916 anniversary."

In a statement issued in Dublin, the IRA leaders said: "The IRA, whose mandate for armed struggle derives from Britain's denial of the fundamental right of the Irish people to national self-determination and sovereignty, has made its position clear. We reaffirm that position."

It pledged willingness to facilitate unconditional peace talks, an offer which moderate nationalist leaders said was a positive sign in the otherwise polarized landscape.

The IRA, which ended a 17-month ceasefire with the Docklands bomb and three other London attacks, said Northern Ireland's 25-year conflict could be resolved only in talks. It blamed Britain for keeping its Sinn Fein political arm out in the cold.

"The IRA remains fully committed to its republican objectives and, for so long as Britain persists in its denial of national and democratic rights in Ireland, then the IRA will continue to assert those rights."

Britain and Ireland say they will hold all-party peace talks on the province's future on June 10 but are adamant that Sinn Fein will not be given a seat unless the IRA ends the violence.

Mass grave tampered with in Bosnia

ORAOVAC, Bosnia (Reuters) - UN war crimes investigators believe a suspected mass grave in Serb territory in eastern Bosnia has been tampered with over the past three months, United States army officers said yesterday.

"They believe in some way, shape or another (the site) has been disturbed," said Major Daniel Zajac, who commands US NATO troops providing security for the investigators.

"I don't know exactly what they meant by that," Zajac told reporters, adding: "Somehow the site had been disturbed."

He could not say whether NATO aerial surveillance had confirmed tampering at the site, which is believed to contain the bodies of Muslim men killed by conquering Serb forces after the fall of the Srebrenica enclave last July.

NATO commanders have refused to guard the graves to prevent the Serbs hiding the suspected killing of between 3,000 and

8,000 unarmed Muslim men.

Investigators from the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague visited the muddy Oraovac field looking for clues to confirm testimonies of survivors who say hundreds of captured Muslim men were executed and buried in the area.

The investigators would not comment about possible tampering at the site, which lies next to a cornfield and a railway between the villages of Oraovac and Krizevici, some 10 km from Zvornik in rural eastern Bosnia.

Local Serb residents told Reuters the field is located on property which was owned by a Muslim man before the war.

The UN team roped off a small section of the field about five metres (yards) wide yesterday and were digging through thick mud with shovels for several hours.

At about 1.30 p.m. the investigators lifted out a bone, a piece of cloth, and a leather jacket from a hole some 70 cm deep.

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When should we get together?

Please note this month's schedule for the Jerusalem Scrabble Club:

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Tuesday, April 16
Sunday, April 21
Tuesday, April 30

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All stalls must be set up by 11:30 a.m., to be ready for the official opening at 12 noon.

NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday April 5, 1996

Italians toughen up on terrorism

Lisa Palmieri-Billig reports from Rome on how the Italian government is no longer blindly appeasing terrorists



MARCH 21 marked the beginning of spring but it also marked a new season in Italian policy regarding Middle East terrorism. On that day, for the first time in history, Italy decided to help to find and arrest an escaped foreign terrorist.

Magied al-Molqi, convicted of murdering Leon Klinghoffer in the 1985 hijacking of the cruise ship *Achille Lauro*, vanished from Rome on February 28 after a 12-day release from prison for "good conduct."

He was taken into custody again in Spain on March 21, thanks to information supplied by Italian police. All other Arab terrorists arrested in Italy in the past (except for one other member of the *Achille Lauro* gang still serving his term) have simply been allowed to slip away — or even actually been accompanied out of the country.

Italy's "light touch" with terrorists dates back to the Seventies, when Rome was a crossroads for secret agents attached to Middle East diplomatic embassies.

Some highlights from those years:

• In 1972, two Arab terrorists used their English girlfriends as unwitting accomplices. They gave them a booby-trapped model plane as they boarded an El Al plane from Rome. It exploded in flight but luckily damage was confined to the bolstered hold where Israeli security had decided to put the package.

Ahmed Zaid and Adnan Mohammed Hashem were released before their scheduled trial in February 1973 even begun.

Official explanations were tactical: "The bomb was not powerful enough to cause serious damage... the two prisoners were mere pawns and not the masterminds... the psychological, individual and social conditions of their lives count in their favor since they come from countries that have not been independent for long" (i.e. Jordan and Iraq).

• In September 1973, five Arabs were arrested for planning to target an El Al plane taking off from Rome's Fiumicino Airport with ground-to-air missiles stowed away at their apartment.

For the first time, a public trial was held. The charge was "planning a massacre." Before trial, two were granted "temporary liberty" and escorted to Libya with an Italian military plane.

One of the two was Atef B'seism who wanted Black September terrorist. The remaining three were found guilty but, having been granted "provisional liberty," soon followed suite.

• During this period, Libya signed substantial economic agreements with Italy. Petroleum was exchanged for Italian industrial, technical and political support of Libya.

• On August 15, 1977, war criminal SS Col. Herbert Kappler, responsible for the Roman Jewish deportations and the Ardeatine Caves massacre, was spirited out of a Rome military hospital, where he was dying of cancer, and into Germany.

This was a major strike for Germany. One of Kappler's lawyers, Franco Cutica, on the payroll of the German government, had tried unsuccessfully since 1965 to have Kappler brought to Germany. Every year, the West German government had made the same request.

His escape was maneuvered while authorities looked the other way.

Nine years later, General Ambrogio Viviani, the former director of Italian military intelligence, revealed that Italy had "secretly promised the Bonn government to engineer Kappler's escape" (*Panorama* interview, May 1986).

He also stated that the five missiles terrorists had been flown "back to Gaddafi" because Italy "did not want to be involved in Middle East terrorism." In fact, "Italy protected the Gaddafi regime from opposition groups to save Italian interests in Libya," he said.

BUT ITALY is no different from other European countries that decided a policy of appeasement would best serve their national interests.

In 1973, the Black September terrorists, who murdered Israeli athletes at the previous year's Munich Olympic Games were released from West German prisons soon after a Lufthansa plane had been hijacked.

Even now, Italy and Germany both do their utmost to gloss over crimes committed in their countries by foreign nationals who claim to be acting out of political motivations.

The killer of the Mujahideen leader, Naghdi Mohammad Hussein in Rome on March 6, 1993, has not been found.

Nor has Germany done more than issue a warrant for the arrest of the head of the Iranian Secret Service wanted for the 1992 murder of a Kurdish leader in a Berlin restaurant.

Middle East experts in Italy claim the safeguarding of economic ties lies behind such inaction.

ITALY SHARES close economic ties with Iran and Libya.

Italy is the third largest importer of Iranian oil (preceded by Japan and South Korea and followed by Holland, France, Greece and Germany) and the fifth largest exporting country (preceded by Germany, the United Arab Emirates, Japan and France).

Libya's economic interdependence with Italy is even starker. Libyan oil covers 20 percent of Italy's energy needs and Italy guarantees Libya half its seven billion dollars of annual petrol income.

Germany also shares close economic ties with the rogue North African state. It is Libya's second largest import-export associate, and is followed by other European Union countries — Spain, Greece, France, Great Britain, Belgium and Luxembourg.

ANOTHER problematic case history — that of Monsignor Hilarion Capucci — involves not only Italy but also the Vatican. The former Catholic Melchite Patriarchal Vicar of Jerusalem was sentenced in December 1974, in Jerusalem for helping Palestinian terrorists by transporting arms for the PLO in his private car.

In 1977, pope Paul VI personally wrote to president Ephraim Katzir, requesting Capucci's release. Israel complied, on the condition that the prelate would be moved out of the Middle East, and limit his concerns to pastoral rather than political issues.

The promises were not kept. Monsignor Capucci became a member of the PLO National Council and through the years has continuously given speeches on the Middle East all over Italy — often passionately comparing the Israeli occupation to actions by the Nazis, and the plight of Palestinian refugees to that of Jews in Auschwitz.

His excellent relations in the Islamic Arab world have earned him a privileged position as Vatican envoy and troubleshooter in times of crises.

He was sent to Iran when US hostages were held during Jimmy Carter's presidency, to Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait and most recently, to Sudan, to negotiate to stop the terrible persecution of Christians there.

In 1982, the *Corriere della Sera* called him "one of the few Christians whom even the Moslems trust, certainly the only one whom Khomeini trusts, held in esteem by the Vatican, which has sent him on delicate diplomatic missions."

Last month, Monsignor Capucci was in Rome to speak at a meeting on European Relations with the Arab, and Islamic world, co-sponsored by the Province of Rome.

When he was asked whether he would, today, call for an end to the use of arms, he replied, "We must work for justice, equality, love, peace..."

"But do you support an end to the use of arms?" he was asked again.

"Justice, love, equality must be implemented..." he repeated over and over.

FIFTY-FOUR coalitions have ruled Italy since 1945, each lasting an average of less than two years. But Italy's policy regarding the Middle East has remained constant: Maintaining good relations with Israel while appeasing Arab demands just as far as necessary to ensure terrorism is kept at bay and the Italian economy can flourish. This was the line shaped by men



(Above) Two Israeli border police guard the Italian cruiseship 'Achille Lauro' in Ashdod two weeks after its hijacking in 1985; (above left) Abu Abbas being interviewed on TV in 1986. Abbas masterminded the hijack — in which an American was murdered — but was allowed by the Italians to avoid capture by US forces at the NATO base of Sigonella in Sicily. (Reuters/EPA)

such as Giulio Andreotti and Bettino Craxi, who were subsequently eclipsed from power during the major corruption scandals in Italy in 1991.

Andreotti and Craxi were — Prime Minister and Foreign Minister respectively in 1985, when the *Achille Lauro* was hijacked and terrorist leader Abu Abbas was allowed by the Italians to avoid capture by US forces at the NATO base of Sigonella in Sicily.

Today, the Middle East peace process has broken the formerly monolithic Arab front.

Now, many of Italy's Arab partners no longer opt to cover up subversion and violence. The PLO is officially on Israel's side in the common struggle against fundamentalist terrorism.

Improved Arab-Israeli relations have dispelled the threat of Arab pressure on Italy regarding terrorism. This transformed situation may well explain the ease with which a former Palestinian terrorist like al-Molqi was recaptured. Doubtlessly, Italy received a green light from one or more Arab embassies to go ahead with the action they took.

At first, the media didn't take much interest in Al Molqi's escape. The news appeared only as a shortish fourth-page item.

It bounced onto the front page only when an outraged protest from the US secretary of state arrived at Italy's Washington Embassy, along with a protest letter from Klinghoffer's daughters and the Anti-Defamation League's Klinghoffer Memorial Foundation.

President Clinton then turned it into a prime issue at the Sharm e-Sheikh conference on terrorism, offering a million-dollar reward for his capture. Publicity mounted, and Italy had to save face.

The Italian Ministry of Justice found a scapegoat in the judge who granted al-Molqi his temporary leave. Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli (a tempered

exponent of the small, Israel-friendly Republican party) expressed sincere dismay at Italy's inadequate laws that enable terrorists to receive furloughs just like any ordinary criminal.

Meanwhile, Italy's police demonstrated that where there's a will, there's a way, and al-Molqi was tracked down and arrested in Spain.

ONE LAST word should be mentioned about the importance of the contemporary Catholic religious ethos, which in Italy still exerts strong influence over the ideology of penal law. There is no death penalty, and allowance is always made for repentance and rehabilitation.

Volunteer agencies such as Caritas, which housed al-Molqi during his furloughs, help former prisoners reintegrate into society.

Strangely (and typically), the greater the sins, the greater are the

rewards for repentance. Terrorists, whether seen as Palestinian "fedayeen," Italian Red Brigades or rightist extremists, are considered as idealists gone astray, young people who have chosen the wrong means for the right ends in search of what they claim is social and national justice.

So, it often happens that repentant murderers — even former mafia — are treated with greater leniency than petty thieves or drug addicts.

The Christian duty to forgive reformed wrongdoers is inculcated in the Italian ethos. But the victims of violence generally find it difficult to abide by this teaching.

In 1985, the last Nazi war criminal to be held in Italy, SS Major Walter Reder, was to return to his native Austria just six months before the expiration of his 40-year sentence.

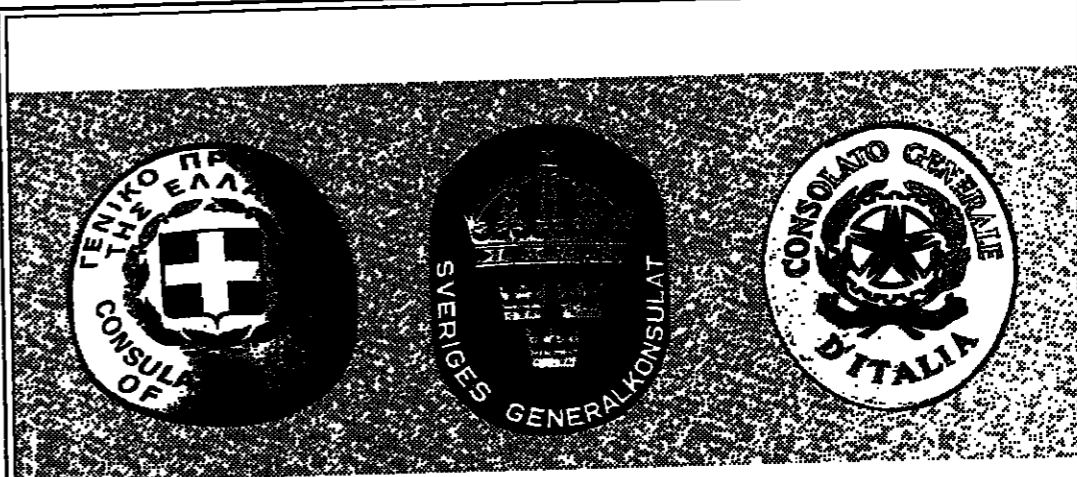
But the families of the 600 defenseless people massacred

under his orders in the northern Italian town of Marabotto voted against the proposal. They rebelled against the lenient views of the town's parish priest and the authoritative Catholic review, *Civiltà Cattolica*.

Similarly, in January 1988, families of victims of Italian terrorism in Genoa wrote a letter to President Cossiga, expressing their objections to plans for reducing prison terms for terrorists.

The majority of Italians do not approve of the death penalty. Most believe in rehabilitation — but not for all criminals.

Abstract principles are applied with Mediterranean flexibility. In world politics, mediation is preferred to direct confrontation. And when international economic and political conflicts loom dark on the horizon, appeasement has often been the road they have taken.



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Samaritan Torah scrolls still missing

THE two Samaritan communities reunite annually at Pessah. Forty sheep are ritually sacrificed and cooked for a feast on Mount Gerizim near Nablus.

Last year, three strangers stopped in the Samaritan synagogue in Nablus on the Saturday before Pessah. The Samaritans, accustomed to tourists, thought little of the strangers.

Later, they believe, the strangers broke into the synagogue and stole the two most valuable items they found: a scroll of the Samaritan Torah in an inscribed copper case, and another handwritten Torah on parchment bound in red covers, both said to be 700 years old.

The thieves slipped the Torah scroll from the case and left the metal decoration on steps near the synagogue. It was a costly choice: The casing, made in 1521, is worth more than the scroll. It might have fetched several million dollars, according to Samaritan leader Benjamin Tsedaka.

The Samaritan leaders reported the theft to Israeli authorities. Interpol, American officials - anyone who would listen. But it was Yasser Arafat, then preparing for Palestinian autonomy in Nablus, who brought the first word. The documents apparently were smuggled to Jordan, and unnamed thieves were demanding \$7 million ransom for their return, he said.

A month later, Radwan Alif Samri, a prominent Samaritan businessman in Nablus, got a call from Palestinian officials telling him to hurry over to Amman.

He checked into the Grand Palace Hotel, and waited. At 11 p.m., he said, he was contacted by a stranger. Together they drove to a vacant lot. Three men were waiting there in an old green Fiat.

Samri got in the green car, and without a word, the men removed two documents from plastic sacks.

"It was our Torah. When I saw the scroll, I kissed it and tears flowed from my eyes," he said.

The thieves took the manuscripts back. They had made their point: The documents were intact. The ransom was now down to \$2

million, Samri's contact told him. "What can we do? The Samaritans don't have that money," Samri said. "And if we pay this, what will stop them from coming again, maybe with guns this time, and taking something else?"

JUST AS the Samaritan community has dwindled over the centuries - a mere 583 remain of a nation that in the sixth century exceeded 1 million - so have its artifacts. Whether sold or stolen, most of the Samaritans' ancient texts were scattered in the netherworld of the illicit antiquities trade, surfacing in museums and private collections from St. Petersburg to Washington.

Desperate efforts to retrieve the latest stolen texts, written by hand on the skins of ritually sacrificed lambs or goats, have led the Samaritans into a clandestine meeting with thieves, appeals to world leaders, and a political union with Yasser Arafat.

"We have no power to fight for our goals," Tsedaka said. "And no government in the area has done anything to force the thieves to return the manuscripts."

For 3,000 years, the Samaritans have studied and copied their Torah (which is basically the same as the Jewish Torah).

There have been times when the Samaritans were nearly extinguished as a people. In 1917, only 146 remained. They survived by adapting with chameleon resilience. About half the community left Nablus to build a neighborhood in Holon.

Members of this community are citizens, serve in the IDF and speak Hebrew. The others, in Nablus, maintain Arab ways, language and dress.

Nablus Mayor Ghassan Shakaa, through whom the thieves communicated, is pessimistic about the possibility of recovering the manuscripts.

"Now everything is off. They cut off the contact, and we have lost our link to them," he said. "Maybe they are trying to sell it to someone else."

According to Tsedaka, "We need these treasures for our future existence." (The Baltimore Sun)



A Samaritan Torah scroll: No government in the area has done anything to force the thieves to return the manuscripts, according to Samaritan leader Benjamin Tsedaka. (David Robinson)

Pessah cuts in on parties

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

SOCIAL life in Herzliya Pimah, Savyon and Kfar Shmaryahu wound down slightly during the first half of this week as hostesses devoted themselves to Pessah preparations. With fewer receptions to attend, ambassadors had more time for cultural pursuits, which explains why British Ambassador David Manning, Indian Ambassador Shivshankar Menon, Japanese Ambassador Harahiko Shibuya, Greek Ambassador Sotirios Varouzakis and Italian cultural attaché Franco Messai were free to accept the Cameri Theater's invitation for Tuesday night's performance of *A Comedy of Errors*. Comprehension was not a problem. Tuesday nights at the Cameri are reserved for simultaneous English translations.

FOR THOSE who wanted to party on Tuesday night, Labor MK Ori Orr hosted a reception at Ginat Egoz. Kfar Monash, for friends and supporters who contributed to his success in last week's primaries.

WHO IS Israel's highest-paid salaried employee? No, it's not a bank manager. It's Benny Gaon, president and CEO of Koor, whose gross monthly salary of NIS 200,000 comes to more than the average wage earner receives in a year. Gaon, 61, who has turned Koor into one of Israel's most profitable companies, is the older brother of singing star and Jerusalem City councilman Yehoram Gaon, whose latest record has just been released.

ARE POLITICIANS superstitious? Yes, according to astrologist Pina Katz and spiritualist Ilana Even. The two who appeared on *Elections '96*, hosted on Channel 1 by Menashe Raz, said that 72% of MKs, including cabinet ministers, are among their clientele. So what are the forecasts? The consensus is that Shimon Peres will emerge victorious from the prime ministerial race, and the pyramid in the Likud leadership will be inverted. David Levy will be the only one unscathed, and will move closer to Labor, whose additional strength will also be beneficial to Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization chairman Avraham Burg.

THE FASHION industry turned out in full force on Sunday night at a reception at the Tel Aviv Hilton in honor of Dr. Michael Otto, president of *Otto Versand*, one of the largest catalog publishers in the world. Founded in 1950, *Otto Versand* appears in Forbes list of the world's 100 leading companies. The catalog has introduced Israeli fashion houses to many new markets, and plays a significant role in Israel's fashion exports. So the gala fashion show which was the highlight of Sunday's reception was quite in keeping with the occasion.

New evidence nails down Qumran theory

THE latest insight into the Dead Sea Scrolls does not come from the caves where the scrolls were found or the nearby ruins of Qumran where some are presumed to have been written, but on a dusty trail between them. It was on this trail that archaeologists Magen Broshi and Hanan Eshel in February found evidence that literally nailed down for them their refutation of revisionist arguments denying the very existence of a Dead Sea sect in antiquity.

The finds included some 60 nails from sandals worn about 2,000 years ago as well as coins and broken pots. These signs of substantial foot traffic between the caves and the ruins of Qumran constitute the first direct evidence, say the archaeol-

ogists, supporting the theory that Qumran was a monastery-like motherhouse serving members of a sect living in surrounding caves. The archaeologists reinforced this theory by uncovering three new caves showing signs of habitation as well as a possible tent encampment. The ruins at Qumran have undergone a number of identity changes since a French traveler in 1851 suggested that they were the remains of Gomorrah. Most researchers assumed that the stone tower protruding from a knoll at Qumran a kilometer west of the Dead Sea had been part of a small Roman fort. After the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in nearby caves in 1947, archaeologists led by Pere de Vaux of the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem

undertook the first excavations of the Qumran ruins to see whether they might have any connection to the scrolls. They uncovered a compound whose structures contained large rooms, evidently for public assembly, and were served by an extensive water system. De Vaux deemed the site to be the motherhouse of the Essene sect described in the first century CE by Pliny the Elder as living on the western shore of the Dead Sea. Since the residential area of the compound was not large, de Vaux surmised that most of the sect members lived in the surrounding caves and came to the motherhouse to dine and serve God.

Almost universally accepted initially, de Vaux's conclusion came to be challenged over the years by other scholars, most notably by Prof. Norman Golb of the University of Chicago. Golb maintained that Qumran had been a military fortress from Hasmonean times and that the scrolls in the nearby caves had been taken there from libraries in Jerusalem to be hidden on the approach of the Roman army.

Prof. Yossi Patrick of Haifa University, who carried out an extensive survey of caves in the Judean Desert, said that the caves around Qumran had never served as permanent habitations. While not disputing those who saw Qumran as

ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

a sectarian motherhouse, he argued that the Qumran sect numbered no more than the few dozen who could be housed inside the monastery.

Recently a Jerusalem architect, basing himself on the large number of cisterns at Qumran and historical allusions, has argued that it was a workshop for making papyrus. As for the scrolls themselves, the original belief that they were the product of the Essene sect - the smallest and most ascetic of the three main Jewish groupings in the Second Temple period - has been challenged by numerous scholars over the years who saw the scrolls as Pharisee, Sadducee, medieval, Karaitic, Christian or outright fakes.

Increasingly, scholars are suggesting that many, if not most, of the scrolls were brought to Qumran from other parts of the country. Those scrolls are of a clearly sectarian nature, however, and are generally seen as originating at Qumran. Golb argues that none came from Qumran because there was no sect living there. Uncertainty about the identity of the Qumran inhabitants now prompts most scholars to refer to them neutrally as members of the Dead Sea sect rather than Essene as in the earlier years of Dead Sea Scroll scholarship.

IN DECEMBER, a dig was launched 100 meters north of the Qumran ruins by Broshi, retired curator of the Dead Sea Scroll collection at the Israel Museum's Shrine of the Book, and Eshel of Bar-Ilan University. Broshi is perhaps the foremost proponent of the conservative school which largely accepts de Vaux's finding that Qumran was an Essene monastery whose members lived in surrounding caves. Eshel is one of the better known of the young generation of Israeli archaeologists.

They found no scrolls during their six weeks of excavations but they uncovered evidence which they believe supports the conservative view. Until now, eight man-made caves have been uncovered in the soft mud plateau at Qumran, all southwest of the monastery. Despite Patrick's contention, Broshi says these were clearly residential caves. Digging for the first time north of the monastery, he and Eshel uncovered another three artificial caves showing signs of habitation, including pottery vessels and coins.

"Caves are the best solution for the harsh climatic conditions at Qumran," says Broshi.

Digging on behalf of Bar-Ilan University and the Israel Museum, the excavators also uncovered a broad circle of stones which they believe had secured a tent in antiquity.

Coins and pottery were found here as well.

The trail leading from the monastery to the newly uncovered caves continued northwest to the area of Caves 1, 2, 3 and 11 where the first Dead Sea Scrolls were found. The trail lay on the existing surface but it had not been attributed before to antiquity. "People might argue that this is a modern trail," says Eshel, "but the coins are from the first century CE. And the nails from the broken sandals are from then too. The pottery we have is similar to what was found inside the monastery which has been dated to 31 BCE. We found coins as late as 67 CE. So I think this area was occupied during this period of time. We believe that the people who lived here in tents and caves were part of the community as de Vaux had said."

The archaeologists believe that more inhabited areas may be found nearby. Each morning, as the archaeologists reconstruct the members of the sect streamed from the caves into the Qumran compound where they prayed together facing east towards the sun rising over the mountains of Moab, their backs to Jerusalem, whose priestly guidance the sect rejected. Then each man turned to his assigned work. In the afternoon the members and

novices immersed themselves in ritual baths and gathered for their communal meal. Then they prayed again. When they returned to their dwellings it was not to sleep.

"We know that they were supposed to study one-third of the night," says Eshel. "We believe they borrowed scrolls from the main library in the monastery. We found oil lamps in every cave."

The new finds are unlikely to dampen the passionate scholarly debates that still rage over Qumran but Broshi and Eshel believe they shore up the position of the hard-pressed conservative school. It was indeed, say the archaeologists, the first monastery in the Western world.

Says Broshi: "Our finding reinforces the theory that the religious community here was most probably Essene and that it must have numbered 150-200 people. All the other theories are meaningless when we see that the residents of Qumran were anchorites [religious recluses] living in caves."

The first scholar to see any of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Prof. Eliezer Sukenik, had concluded in 1948 even before the excavation at Qumran that the authors of the three scrolls he studied were Essene, notes Broshi. "The more we know the more we are certain that this original theory is correct."

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Archeology used to bash Israel

EYE ON THE MEDIA
DAVID BAR-ILLAN

WILLIAM Dalrymple, who used to write falsehoods about Israel for *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Spectator* ("Eye on the Media," January 20, 1995), has now moved his fabrication industry to the London *Sunday Times*. In a January 21 issue he uses a book review as a vehicle for Israel-bashing.

The review is not a critique. It is a promotion piece for an attempt by Keith Whitlam to rewrite history in a book called *The Invention of Ancient Israel: The Silencing of Palestinian History*. The attempt cannot be taken any more seriously by the scientific community than the claim that Jesus was "a Palestinian," or that the Palestinians are descendants of the Philistines and Jebusites. It is obviously written in the hope of selling insidious fairy tales to the ignorant and susceptible.

Dalrymple begins his review by stating that after "conquering" Jerusalem in 1967, Israeli archeologists, trying to find "remains associated with the Jewish temples," demolished a Palestinian girls' school "to make way for the dig." It is a typical, not-so-subtle picture of ruthless, conquering Israelis destroying a school of the oppressed and occupied just to find proof for the Jewish claim to Jerusalem.

later, when it became clear that it was in the way of important discoveries. But according to Dalrymple, Israeli archeologists are not only Zionist fanatics and nationalistic martinets. In their feverish drive to find the "Jewish connection" in the ruins, they use Israeli school-children in the digs "as part of [the children's] National Service" (only Dalrymple knows what this means).

There is, of course, nothing wrong with a nation digging to discover archeological evidence of its past - though Dalrymple makes it sound like a criminal preoccupation - but to imply that Israeli archeologists are interested only in Jewish finds is an obscene lie. No one has discovered, restored, rebuilt, refurbished, advertised, exhibited and guarded Christian and Moslem relics as conscientiously as Israeli archeologists.

If anything, the archeologists have bent over backwards to preserve Moslem structures, even when it meant digging under them, which most likely would have led to the discovery of finds with Jewish portent, had to stop. Ironically, the Moslem authorities in the city are aware of Israel's contribution to Islamic history, and the Wakf has made no trouble for the diggers, except when they wanted to dig under the Temple Mount mosques.

With obvious glee, Dalrymple states that "to the excavators' enormous embarrassment," the ruins (under the demolished school) did not date from the time of the temples, but turned out to be "a previously unknown and

rather magnificent Islamic Umayyad palace dating from the 8th century." One can only wonder why those fanatic Israeli archeologists had to restore the palaces with meticulous care, invited the Jerusalem mufti to visit them, and are now featuring them as a highlight of Jerusalem's archeological tour. They could, after all, have ignored the discovery and continued to dig for Jewish relics underneath.

Adding another half-truth, Dalrymple writes, "Recently, the embarrassing Arab ruins returned to the news when Israeli zealots succeeded in taking out a court injunction against plans partially to reconstruct the palace on the grounds that the structure was 'offensive to Jewish sensibilities.'" The truth is that the Temple Mount Faithful objected not to the reconstruction of a Moslem palace, but to using Herodian stones from the Temple Mount found in the same dig - stones they consider sacred - for this purpose.

Dalrymple conveniently forgets to mention that the Faithful lost their suit, and that "the plan partially to reconstruct" is in the process of completion. In his attempt to imply that finds of the Arab past are predominant in Jerusalem, he never mentions that the excavations in the city have revealed structures from the Canaanite, Israelite, Hasmonean, Herodian, Roman, Byzantine, Crusader, Mameluke and Turkish periods.

Dalrymple is bothered not only by Israeli archeologists, but by the Jews' nasty habit of establishing "settlements ... deliberately on sites identified as having originally been colonized by the ancient Israelites 3,000 years earlier." (Notice that even the ancient Jews were no more than invading colonizers, while the Moslems who invaded the country and ravaged it in the seventh century are, by some inexplicable leap, also the descendants of the indigenous Canaanites, who were displaced by the aggression-prone Israelites.)

Perhaps what truly bothers rewriters of history like Dalrymple is that the Moslems, throughout their long domination of this country, built only one town. All the Arabic names are distortions of the original Hebrew.

To buttress his charge that political bias rather than scientific inquiry animates Israeli archeologists, Dalrymple quotes an Israeli critic of the establishment. His source this time is "the distinguished Tel Aviv-based archeologist Shulamit Giva." "Giva" is so distinguished that Dalrymple not only misspells her name but refers to her as "he." Like several other Israeli intellectuals - most notably Amos Oz and A.B. Yehoshua - Giva has discovered that bashing Israel is a shortcut to world recognition. In 1992 she accused the archeology establishment of being "an executive arm of an ideological movement, a nationalist and political instrument..." rather than

a scientific discipline. Geva lives in a free country, and she is free to express her opinions, no less than the Washington columnist who in the early 1980s referred to Harlem as "America's Auschwitz" - a remark which served as grist for the Soviet propaganda mills. Instead of simply examining the facts on the ground, Dalrymple uses this outburst of a decidedly less-than-famous archeologist as proof of what is happening in Israeli archeology.

In fact, Bible-oriented digging in Jerusalem - which Dalrymple attributes to Israelis - characterized Christian archeologists of the 19th century. It is the Jewish archeologists - particularly since the establishment of Israel - who have scrupulously exposed findings for what they are.

But facts interest neither Dalrymple nor Whitlam, the book's author, both valiant warriors in the campaign to debunk Jewish claims in the Land of Israel. There is something almost hilarious in the sudden sympathy such warriors have for the Canaanites, whom the Palestinians now claim as their ancestors. "Sometimes the adjectives slapped on the unfortunate Canaanites smack of straight racism," Dalrymple complains, accusing the great American archeologist William Albright of using "neofascist terms" in describing the extinct tribe of biblical lore. It is not every day that *The Sunday Times* offers a passionate

defense of the child-sacrificing, orgiastic Canaanites; and it would all be quite amusing were it not part of a conscious, calculated campaign to delegitimize Israel's presence in this country. The Arabs find it difficult convincingly to portray Israel as a usurper of the land as long as the world believes there is a connection between the people of the Bible and the land of the Bible. To deny this connection, and to depict Jewish history in the Middle East as no more than an insignificant short sojourn by passing colonizers is the purpose of today's Palestinian-Arab propaganda. In the service of this purpose, William Dalrymple is always a tireless soldier.

"It stated that the extremist group was linked to the military and security services and evidence was emerging that it was providing logistical and technical support to Palestinian bombers for their own political reasons of opposing the peace process."

"The report should have made clear that these allegations were solely attributed to Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, who made the claims in briefings with foreign diplomats. Israel has always denied that any of its extremists have directly and deliberately colluded with Arab terrorists."

"We apologise to our readers for any impression we may have given that the *Evening Standard* credited these allegations."

It was hardly a profuse apology for what can only be termed an inexcusable offense against all journalistic ethics and professional standards. What seemed to irritate *Evening Standard* editor Max Hastings more than the appearance of the story in the paper was that *The Jerusalem Post* exposed it. Responding to a reader who sent the "Eye on the Media" column to Hastings demanding an explanation, Hastings wrote: "Thank you for your letter of March 21. I had already seen *The Jerusalem Post*. Although it is a newspaper which I normally regard with contempt, on this occasion it was largely justified in its comments, and I made the decision to publish the attached correction in the paper. Thank you anyway for drawing the article to my attention." It is up to readers to decide which newspaper should be regarded with contempt.

Foreign workers and foresight

CAPITAL TALK
TEDDY KOLLEK and AMOS KOLLEK

TWO weeks ago, I went for a few days to Vienna and Munich for a symposium commemorating the 100th anniversary of the publication of Herzl's manifesto, *Der Judenstaat*, "The Jewish State," and also, of course, some fundraising for Jerusalem.

I was happy and somewhat surprised to find the meetings in Vienna filled with people - Jews and Gentiles alike, who showed a great deal of interest in the lectures and participated in the discussions. I am named after Herzl and he was a hero of my youth

and, to a great extent, my inspiration to get involved with Zionism and I was glad to see that he had not been altogether forgotten. Herzl, like Ben-Gurion, had the gift of vision, foresight, long-term thinking. Today, most of our politicians seem to be thinking only short-term. On this same four-day trip, during my brief stay in Munich, the subject of the foreign workers in Germany kept coming up in conversations. For the Germans, this has become a monumental problem, one seemingly without a solution. In Berlin alone, there are 400,000 Turks.

This is potentially a much more serious problem than the endlessly debated issues of the Golan, our security concerns with the Arabs in general and the polarization between secular and observant Jews, all serious problems, solvable with time, goodwill and patience. But with the foreign workers, we are creating a monster. If we don't do something about it now, we may wake up

someday soon in a country that is the home of a few peoples, with whom, unlike the Palestinians, there will be no territorial solution possible. They will be living among us like our parents had lived in Europe, but they will be speaking foreign languages, gathering in different places of worship, and will feel no loyalty to this country called Israel, Herzl's *Judenstaat* came true.

Sadly, this issue, like the declining values in our society, and inadequate education system which threaten to bring us down, falls by the wayside. The price of oil is high, the dollar is strong, and the world economy is booming.

forming political alliances, and discussing with noisy slogans the largely diminished threat of an attack by our Arab neighbors takes priority. Have we so quickly forgotten that we had come to Palestine to create a country of our own, where we would sustain ourselves, where Jews would also work with their hands? A country of our own, means, among many other things, no masses of foreign laborers, even if it seems like the easiest solution at the moment. We and the Palestinians can do the work by ourselves. There is no need to bring new ethnic groups in masses to an already complicated and crowded situation. It takes a little bit of vision and long-term thinking by our citizens and politicians. Seems like a hard thing to come by these days.

Palestinian fairy tales: Kind of grim

A VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

POPE GREGORY XV used the term "propaganda" in a positive, or at least neutral, sense when he put it on the map in 1622 by appointing a committee of cardinals to constitute the *Congregatio de propaganda fide* (Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith). The word stems from a Latin agricultural term, *propagare*, meaning to reproduce by setting pages, i.e., layered branches or stocks of vines, or slips (small shoots or twigs cut for planting or grafting). This stems from *propagare*, meaning "fasten before."

By extension, it came to signify the dissemination of ideas or doctrines. About 150 years ago people started using it in the pejorative sense it has today: spreading lies to promote one's own cause, and slanders or innuendoes to harm a rival cause. (*Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th edition*; Eric Partridge's *Origins: Webster's Word Histories*.) It is in the pejorative sense, of course, that I characterized the *Palestine Weekly Review* (PWR), issued by the "Directorate of External Relations and Media" of the "Palestinian Ministry of Information," as the organ of PLO chief Yasser Arafat's "official propaganda bureau" (February 25).

In PWR's March 13 issue No. 34, its editor, Walid M. Awad, says he is "baffled" by my characterization, because he has "never received any direction or interference from any source whatsoever." Of course not. Arafat didn't choose Awad merely for his intelligence, knowledge and talent. Surely he knew he would not have to monitor Awad's writing and editing, and that, on the contrary, Awad would occasionally be giving him "direction."

And surely Awad knew, on the basis of earlier episodes involving other "Palestinian" journalists, that if Arafat would have to "interfere," he, Awad, would be out of a job, to put it mildly. Awad adds: "As a matter of fact, the term 'propaganda' known to others is an anathema to our way of thinking. The Palestinians have been the victim of many propaganda machines, least of all that of Israel's [sic!]"

machines, mainly their own fairy-tale machines. If the Arabs of Eretz Yisrael had listened to Jewish propaganda in the decades before and since the establishment of Israel instead of to the fairy tales of their self-appointed spokesmen here and in neighboring countries, they would long since have had their "Palestine Arab state" alongside Israel.

And they would have had it without the price in blood and misery both they and we have paid and are still paying. IN MY February 23 column I treated several statements Awad made in PWR's February 3 issue No. 33. I refuted, *inter alia*, his assertion that before Israel's establishment in 1948, "Jerusalem was a Palestinian city and capital of Palestine: it had a Palestinian mayor."

Now he again writes: "It is a well-known fact that Jerusalem was the capital of Arab Palestine." That is well known only to those whose historical perspective is determined by "Palestinian" fairy tales. The only "state" besides the ancient and modern Jewish states to have Jerusalem as its capital was the Crusaders' "Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem," which lasted for just over 87 years (1099-1187).

The only capital "Arab Palestine" ever had was Ramle, built by Caliph Suleiman, who made it his seat during his brief reign, 715-717. And it is the only city the Arabs ever built in this country. Nearly three centuries later the Jerusalem-born great Arab historical-geographer and traveler, Mukaddasi, wrote of visiting "Ramle, the capital of Palestine." The closest Jerusalem ever came to being an Arab capital was during the caliphate of Abd al-Malik Ibn Marwan (685-705), Suleiman's father. During his reign, while the anti-caliph Abdullah Ibn Zubayr briefly controlled Mecca, Ibn Marwan forbade Moslem pilgrims to go to Mecca, declared the Rock on the Temple Mount to have been Mohammed's takeoff point on his flight to Heaven, built the Dome of the Rock over it, and made Jerusalem his seat till Ibn Zubayr was defeated in 692.

As for Jerusalem's Palestinian mayors, I added that since 1948, too, every mayor of Israel's capi-

tal through the incumbent, Ehud Olmert, has been "Palestinian," by having either been born in, or become a naturalized subject of, Mandatory Palestine.

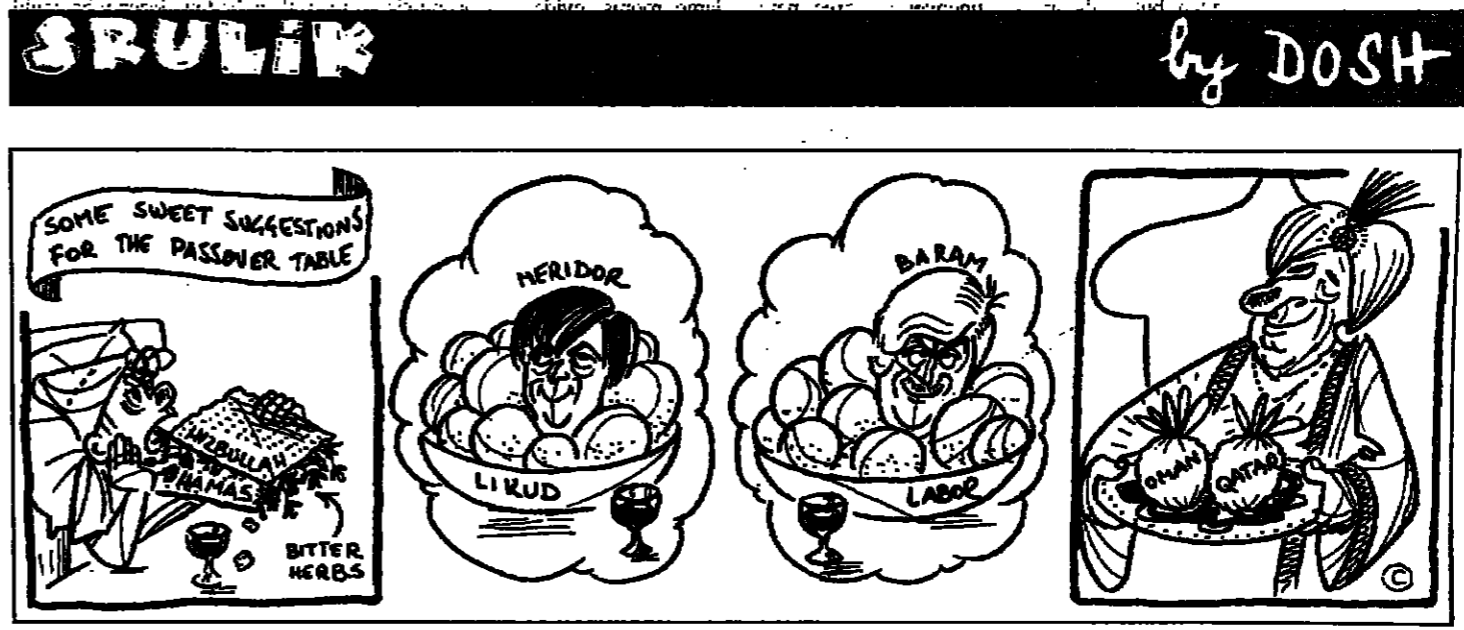
Now Awad writes that before 1948 "West Jerusalem never had a Jewish mayor, simply because the city was Palestinian." However, "Authentic Palestinian Jews" served on the city council. What is an "authentic Palestinian Jew?" He mentions that Mousa Kazem el-Husseini, Jerusalem's mayor from 1918 to 1920 (grandfather of our own Faisal Hussein), "was forcibly removed by the British."

He doesn't mention that the man was removed because he incited an Arab mob in the demonstration that led to the three-day Nebi Mousa pogrom that began 76 years ago today on the Jewish calendar (Nissan 16, 5680/April 4, 1920). The rioters murdered seven Jews and wounded 211, including two raped girls. Six Arabs were killed and 24 wounded, mainly by British troops and Arabs who thought their victims were Jews. Seven Englishmen were hurt (*The Palestine Bulletin*, April 30, 1920; *Harava Hayeludi* edited by Hu'atika biYerushalayim edited by Mordechai Naor, 1987; *Tzemiha Hainua Haleumit Ha'aravit Hapalestina'it, 1918-1929* by Yehoshua Porat, Am Oved, 1976).

I CITED a list of distinguished "Palestinian" Arabs who categorically rejected the designation "Palestine/Palestinian," one even saying it was "a term the Zionists invented." Awad ignores my documentation and merely reiterates that "Israel denied the existence of the Palestinian people."

He also rejects my assertion that the "Palestinian Arab baby" was born with the help of Israeli and other Jewish midwives. Hebrew University professor Yehoshua Porat, is one of the world's leading experts on "Palestine" and is identified with the left-wing "peace camp." He has written that "The concept 'Palestinian nationality' is a figment of the imagination of pen-pushers in Israel and the West" (*Ha'aretz*, June 19, 1990). Sheherazade, anyone?

(Thanks to Dr. Joseph Lerner, co-director of IMRA/Independent Media Review & Analysis; Yisrael Medad, director of Media Watch; and other Jerusalemites who brought PWR to my attention.)



Pessah: The festival of freedom

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

PESSEH is the festival of freedom. Our sages, however, suggest that the most effective way of experiencing freedom 365 days a year is by immersing oneself in Torah. The Bible describes its words as having been engraved (*harut*) on the tablets: "Do not read *harut* [engraved], but rather read *harut* [freed]. No one is truly free except the individual who is occupied in Torah." (Mishna Avot 6:2) How so?

Let's consider three different ways by which Torah ensures freedom. The first way involves the relationship between a human being and himself. To be free, a person must be self-disciplined, able to say "no" to his instinctive desires and rely instead on a higher set of values - whether this involves the food that enters the mouth, the images that reach the retina, or the words that leave one's lips. Those who reject the commandments as too restrictive are deluding themselves in believing they are free just because their conscience doesn't get in the way of their desires; there can be no freedom without self control, no mastery without sacrifice.

The second level of freedom is in the political realm. Totalitarian governments strip citizens of fundamental rights and dignity. Our Torah condemns the enslaving of others. The entire drama of the Exodus serves to teach Pharaoh and any other despot that only God is the Master of all beings; indeed, the Parenthood of God ensures the fundamental siblinghood of all peoples. This is

why one of the reasons for the Sabbath is "in order that your Gentile man-servant and maid-servant rest like you."

Understand that the Torah grants inner freedom even in the most dehumanizing conditions. Worshiping God allows one to rise above Caesar's law and never bow to any totalitarian regime. "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One," is not merely a statement of belief in the Almighty; it is also a rejection of any absolute ruler other than the Divinity Himself.

And there is yet a third level of freedom that emanates from Torah involvement, a freedom that comes specifically from the Oral Law, the entire corpus of Jewish practice and philosophy. On a simple level, the freedom felt in studying the Oral Law is a direct result of its difficulties. A passive relationship to the text is not possible; each individual who engages in the "battles of Torah" must fight with the sword of his mind and the power of his will. Textbooks that provide information may make us wiser, but they can't give us the intimate freedom that comes from engraving the words of the Oral Law into our beings.

But on a deeper level, the Oral Law gives us the freedom of a partnership with God. Over the course of centuries, the Sages had to rule on thousands of issues dealing with the latest technical developments and scientific dis-

coveries. The student of Oral Law not only encounters these rulings, but discovers that the Talmud has laid a groundwork for all future halachic negotiations between ourselves and God.

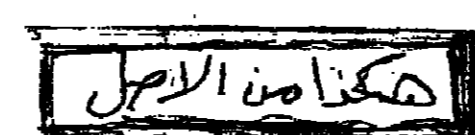
An example of such freedom can be seen in the following incident, recorded in the Babylonian Talmud, *Pessahim*, 66a. One year, the 14th of Nissan (the day before Pessah) fell on the Sabbath, but the legalists and judges had forgotten whether the commandment to bring the paschal sacrifice (ordinarily commanded for that day) still applied. The problem was posed to a Sage named Hillel, who had just come from Babylon. He permitted the sacrifice, giving two reasons: first, the word *mo'ado* ("in its proper time") defines the paschal sacrifice (Num. 9:2) as well as the daily sacrifice (Num. 28:2). Since the daily sacrifice is to be brought on the Sabbath, so must the paschal sacrifice override the usual prohibitions.

He then added a *kal va'hamer*, (an inference from the lenient to the strict). If the daily sacrifice, which does not incur a strict punishment if neglected, is nevertheless brought on the Sabbath, then the paschal sacrifice, which incurs a devastating punishment (*karat*) if not brought, must certainly be brought on the Sabbath. Hillel's answer prompted the legalists to accept him as the new head of the Sanhedrin. Commentators have interpret-

ed this Talmudic passage as an expression of the tension between the Sadducees and the Pharisees (the great expositors of the Oral Law). The judges' admission of having forgotten the halacha echoes the Sadducean claim that without a direct statement in the Torah, we dare not present a ruling.

Hillel represents the approach of the Pharisees. His first answer clarifies the issues through the exegesis passed down from teacher to student (*g'zera shava*). His second answer depended on human logic (*kal va'hamer*). Both responses are included in R. Yishmael's compilation of the 13 hermeneutic principles - Divinely given rules by which the Sages explicated the Torah. Clearly then, the Oral Law gave the Sages freedom to judge. Without this freedom, the Torah would have become a moribund museum piece. The Sadducees never understood that the Oral Law is what makes the Torah eternal, granting ultimate freedom to Torah sages to become partners with God.

Preparation for Pessah requires tremendous self-discipline, a major acceptance of the yoke of heaven. Only 50 years ago hundreds of thousands of Jews in the death camps sanctified the name of God by refusing to eat bread on Pessah. But perhaps most important for us seven-week journey that takes us to the foot of Mt. Sinai, where we will receive the Torah, the ultimate source of freedom. *Shabbat Shalom, and Hag Sameach*



A shooting sport

CHESS
NICK KOPALOFF

Chess players are commonly portrayed as an esoteric bunch whose eccentricity is a precondition for their joining the fraternity. They are so deeply immersed in their inflated bubble that too often they don't realize, or care, that the outside world perceives chess to be a game devoid of real action.

In the past chess has been compared to cricket. But whereas cricket has long unshackled the stereotype that every game last five days and frequently results in a draw due to a mild shower on the fifth day, chess has responded at a slower pace.

In an attempt to brighten the image of the game and broaden its appeal to both the masses and to commercial sponsors, welcome changes have been introduced.

"Blitz" tournaments, in which each game lasts a maximum of 10 minutes, have attracted many new players. Cynical observers who used to ridicule the motionless combatants now express intrigue at the rapid clock-smashing duel in which the motor activity almost matches the cerebral in its intensity.

However, despite a consistently high standard of play at blitz tournaments, chess purists tend to prefer "active" competitions, in which each player has 30 minutes on the clock.

In arguing for the admission of chess into the Olympic Games, Israel Chess Federation chairman Yosef (Tommy) Lapid correctly notes that "chess is a game as physical as pistol shooting."

BRITAIN'S Julian Hodgson has earned a reputation as one of the game's most daring innovators. His experimentation with the outrageous has cast him into the forefront of chess's avant-garde.

In the following exciting battle, however, he came out second best to the talented Brit Stuart Conquest.

Conquest, Stuart - Hodgson, Julian
Budapest 1995
Scandinavian Defense
(Center Counter)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.d4 c6 6.Bd2 Qc7. As so often occurs in this opening, after Black's early queen sortie she is forced to retreat and find shelter behind the sanctuary of her infantry. On 7...Qb4 Conquest would have readily sacrificed a pawn with 7.Qa2 Qa2 8.Rb1 Qa3 9.Nf3 with a huge lead in development.

7.Nf3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxd3 36 10.0-0-0 Nbd7 11.g4 Nb6 12.Bf1!
A retreat of this nature requires a balanced measure of audacity and foresight. American GM Joel Benjamin lacks neither as reflected in his wacky and crude retreat on the second move of the Alekhine defence. 1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Ng8?
12...Rd8 13.g5 Ng8! 14.h4! Rxd4?

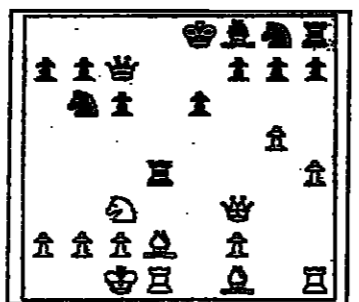


DIAGRAM 1
after Black's 14th move
15.Nb5! cxb5 16.Bxb5+ Nd7. 16...Kd8 fails to 17.Bf4!, and on 16...Rd7, White has the energetic move 17.Ba5!. Perhaps the most solid defence is the grotesque move 16...Ke7 which reduces the kingside pieces to complete paralysis.

17.Bf4! Rxf4 18.Bxd7+ Qxd7 19.Qf4 Qc8 20.Rh3! Ne7 21.Rf3 Nf5 22.Rc3 Bc5 23.Rxc5! Qxc5 24.Qb8+ Ke7 25.Qxb7+ 1-0

THE following White-to-play-and-win problem is one of my favorite endgame studies. Many players would reluctantly agree to a draw in this position, but White forces his opponent into the subtlest of zugzwangs in order to administer the sweetest of mates.

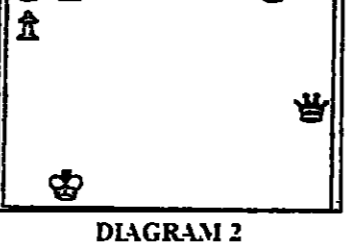


DIAGRAM 2
Solution: 1.b7+ Kxb7 2.a6+ Kb8. Any other move would result in mate after 3.Qe8+ Qe8 4.Qb5+ Ka8 5.Qc6+ Kb8 6.Kc1!! The most seemingly innocuous move is the deadliest. Black is forced to move, and relinquish the "defense" against mate on b7. Nothing can prevent 6.Qb7+ 1-0



A trip to a nearby forest is one rewarding springtime activity.

Tips to enjoy the outdoors

SPRINGTIME, particularly since there are holidays that give one time to get out and see other places, is a time for viewing the wealth that nature has to offer. Whether one wants to take a trip of a few hours to a nearby forest, visit a nature reserve, or make an extended visit to a different part of the country, there is something to be seen and enjoyed.

For those who especially want to see wildflowers, there is nothing more rewarding than a simple walk in Galilee, the Jezreel Valley, or the Jerusalem hills. The Negev and the Judean Desert, where recent rains have produced carpets of wildflowers, are a delight.

Birdwatchers should check out the Hula nature reserve, the ponds of Gush Dan, the Galilee and Beit She'an fish ponds, and - to find warblers and other songbirds - any convenient orchard or plantation.

NATURE D'VORA BEN SHAUL

The orchards and plantations around Jerusalem and in the upper Negev are especially rich right now.

Viewing mammals is a bit harder because so many of them are nocturnal. However, ibexes, gazelles and hyraxes wander around the Ein Gedi nature reserve; ibexes and gazelles roam around Eilat and in the Arava; and hyraxes can be found all over Galilee, wherever there are orchards, and in the Jerusalem Hills. Go early in the morning or before twilight, but while there is plenty of light.

Remember to slow down since even though one can see a few animals from the main highway at a speed of 100 km. per hour, on any country road at 50 or 60 km/h one will be treated to animals.

birds, and wildflowers as well. But the most important thing of all is to go with the right attitude toward these treasures. Show respect for all plants, animals, birds, and even lesser creatures and for the very earth itself. Don't drive all-terrain vehicles onto sand dunes or shorelines. Try not to be noisy, that may scare away the animals. Nature reserves are not a place for transistor radios, shouting or dogs.

Also, don't litter or bury litter under rocks or in shallow holes. These items get dug up by animals and, since plastic bags are indigestible, they kill many animals that inadvertently eat them. If there is no appropriate place for garbage, bag it and take it home for disposal. The best rule when visiting natural areas is to take nothing away but memories and photographs and to leave nothing behind but footprints.

Chicken feed for Dr. Rand

BRIDGE
MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer
North-South vulnerable

North (Dan)
4 K 10 8 6
7 J 6 5 2
3
4 Q J 10 3
West: 7 3
10 4
A J 9 5 4
K 9 5 4
East: Q 9 4
K Q 7
K 10 7 2
8 7 2
South (Rand)
A J 5 2
A 9 8 3
Q 8 6
A 6

South West North East
1 NT 2 2 3 3
3 3 pass 4 4 (all pass)

Opening lead: 4 5

The biggest trend in bridge tournaments these days is senior events for players aged 55 and over. At last year's world olympiad, the first Seniors Swiss Teams competition was won by a team including Dr. Nissim Rand and Moshe Katz of Tel Aviv. At the recent Philip Morris European Mixed Teams championships in Monte Carlo, Rand and Katz, with the help of their female partners, Ora Dan of Rehovot, and Ziva Yaniv of Tel Aviv, did it again ... sort of.

There was no senior event but the organizers decided to give a special trophy for the best score by an all-senior team. Now, of course, not every man and woman in this event was willing to admit to being over 55. In fact, one of the more youthful-looking women on the Israeli team was required to show her passport to prove she was indeed qualified!

Dr. Rand, who in real life is a leading nutritionist in the field of chicken feeding, showed he not only knows the right formulas for growing healthy birds but is also knowledgeable in the equally complex field of card combinations. This week's deal is proof of this, Rand being home a difficult four-heart contract by taking three variations of finesse.

Dr. Rand, who often takes time out in international events to make kiddush for the Jewish players on Friday evenings, was quick to point out that in Kabbala, three is a special number. In this case, the three variations were, and the club suit, which offered the only other possible finesse - and would have lost - was the one finesse he avoided.

patterns. After Rand opened one notrump on the South cards, West overcalled two clubs to show both minors. North took advantage by cuebidding three clubs to show both majors. East bid three diamonds and Rand bid three hearts. When this was raised to four, the auction concluded.

WEST made a very unusual opening lead, underleading the ace, but this did not hurt the defense because East held the king. At trick two a diamond was returned through South's queen and ruffed in dummy with the defence of hearts. Rand led a spade and immediately finessed the jack. He knew from the bidding that West held the minors and, therefore, that East was likely to hold the length and strength in the majors.

After the jack of spades held, he took his second finesse, but a more interesting one. In fact, its name is "the intra-finesse." He led the nine of hearts and when West played low, he played low from dummy, losing the trick to East's queen.

The intra-finesse is a finesse through a low honor card in preparation to another that card later in the game. This is exactly what happened.

East returned a third diamond, ruffed in dummy and now the bare jack of hearts was led. East finessed the seven, and Rand finessed for a third time, pinning West's ten. Next came a spade to his ace and he drew the last trump with the ace of hearts. Finally, Dr. Rand gave up a club but had lost only three tricks, one heart, one diamond and one club, to make his delegate contract.

Notice it would not have helped West to cover Rand's nine of hearts with the ten, when the intra-finesse was executed. Rand would cover the ten with dummy's jack and have a simple finesse position of the 9 8 over the king on the next round.

Dr. Rand, who often takes time out in international events to make kiddush for the Jewish players on Friday evenings, was quick to point out that in Kabbala, three is a special number. In this case, the three variations were, and the club suit, which offered the only other possible finesse - and would have lost - was the one finesse he avoided.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Longing to take part? (5-6)
8 Frank about the future? (11)
11 Surrounded by a number in support (4)
12 Every variety of ache (4)
13 Austere conditions for aircraft mechanics, we hear (7)
15 Traveller allowed key is satisfied (7)
16 What the horse did when I went in the stable, perhaps (5)
17 A conservative leader about to give ground (4)
18 Vera is involved in a wild party (4)
19 The art of spelling (5)
21 Warn off Henry - it may have a tusk! (7)
22 Transport I catch to this meeting of governors (7)
23 Women of habit (4)
26 Stake for backing a mount (4)
27 Giving one a ring, then eloping perhaps (11)
28 Informal description of a promotional competition? (4-3-4)
DOWN
2 Put one's foot down in the introduction (4)
3 Collects the rags for recycling (7)
4 Dismiss through drink (4)
5 Having made a withdrawal go into the red (7)
6 It tastes sweet, but schoolboys don't like it (4)
7 Be careful on the dodgems, for example? (4,7)
8 An offhand impression! (11)
9 It threatens us with blows (4,7)
10 It's designed to last (4,7)
14 Fish in shallow water (5)
15 Priest in church demonstrates holy memento (5)
19 Man receiving setback is kind of cross (7)
20 Red hot stuff (7)
24 He's not blind to the future (4)
25 A command to avoid (4)
26 Hill dwellers noted for industry (4)

QUICK CROSSWORD
ACROSS
1 Ire (5)
4 Circular (5)
10 Copy (7)
11 Poison (5)
12 Sheer (5)
13 Burdensome (7)
15 Ancestry (4)
17 Command (5)
19 Meaning (5)
22 Expat (4)
25 Warrant (7)
27 Peer (5)
29 Tedium (5)
30 Grand National course (7)
31 Burglar's crowbar (5)
32 Straighten (5)
DOWN
2 Din (5)
3 Model (7)
5 Bizarre (5)
6 Humeral (7)
7 Stall (5)
8 Devil (5)
9 Anxiety (5)
14 Headland (4)
16 Golf club (4)
18 Fiction (7)
20 Infinite (7)
21 Pale (5)
23 Habitual (5)
24 Change (5)
26 Narcotic (5)
28 Dismantle (5)

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El Al shops around for new terminals

Prepare for landing - not at Heathrow and JFK - but at Stansted and Newark Airports, Steve Rodan reports

THE flight can be first class or economy, but the airport which travelers use is the same. And, with the rapidly increasing volume of international travel, airports are usually crowded, noisy, and difficult to reach. Often by the time you reach the departure terminal you don't feel like flying at all.

El Al has faced this problem more than other airlines. As it serves a small but active niche market it must remain sensitive to its passengers' needs even when they are not on board. In the cut-throat competition for passengers, every advantage counts - including airport convenience.

As a result, Israel's national air carrier has been shopping for new airports to enable it to expand its services. One airport has been Stansted, a small facility outside London. The airport is five years old with annual passenger traffic of only about four million, compared to seven million at Ben-Gurion Airport.

Stansted has about the same driving time from London as Heathrow or Gatwick airports. But Stansted is closer to the northeast section of London where many of El Al's Jewish customers live.

Stansted, run by a company named BAA, is also the cream of

Britain's new private airports. The facility sits in a large hangar-like building with transparent walls and a ceiling that provides natural lighting during the day. The airport terminals are unusually quiet, something that results from polite passengers, lack of incessant announcements, and no background music.

A private airport also means few employees. Stansted has 500 workers, half of them security guards. Ben-Gurion Airport has 5,000 employees.

A monorail takes passengers from the arrival to departure terminal. The train is automated. Nobody drives it; nobody opens the doors. An automatic speaker system directs passengers.

There are few cleaning personnel. A system of cameras scans the entire airport. If something is dirty, then it is cleaned. Otherwise, it is left alone.

Private also means flexibility. All El Al flights arriving late at night does not leave its passengers stranded at Stansted. The airport management thereby orders a train to take the customers to London. It's 45 minutes and one stop.

In addition, El Al is a valuable customer for Stansted because it is the only airline flying from Stansted to the US.



London's Gatwick Airport is being supplanted by Stansted as a preferred landing site for El Al.

(Mike Goldberg)

IN THE US, El Al has also sought alternatives to its traditional route. John F. Kennedy Airport in New York is what Heathrow is to London: a huge, overcrowded

facility. El Al had other problems at JFK. Its biggest difficulty was catering to passengers who would proceed to other US cities. JFK handles

relatively few domestic flights, so often the passengers would be required to drag their luggage to other airports, such as La Guardia, which, depending upon the traffic,

can take up to an hour. The solution has been Newark Airport. The facility is far smaller than JFK, serving about 28 million passengers per year.

Newark's speciality is domestic flights. While JFK has 95 international terminals, Newark has about a dozen.

But unlike JFK, Newark is a domestic hub. That means that a passenger flying from Israel can disembark at Newark and catch a flight to just about any major US city. For El Al, it means that Americans outside of the five cities to which the airline flies no longer need to drive their travel agent crazy trying to string together a route to Israel.

But having a convenient airport is not enough. El Al has entered a joint effort with Continental Airlines that would allow El Al passengers to fly from any US destination to a connecting El Al flight. The service is a boon to travel agents and to passengers.

Like Stansted, Newark is expanding its facility and making it easier to be reached. The airport is preparing to launch its monorail in June. Eventually, the monorail will connect the airport to Amtrak train service to cities such as New York, Washington, and Philadelphia.

Unlike Stansted, train service to Newark airport is nonexistent and bus service is hampered by the huge traffic jams from New York to New Jersey.

Still, El Al has high hopes for both Stansted and Newark. El Al flies daily to Newark, except for Friday nights. During its spring schedule, which ends in mid-June, El Al flies from Stansted to Tel Aviv on Monday, Friday, and Sunday. The airline flies from Stansted to Newark on Sunday, Thursday, and Friday.

New Jersey's Victorian community

WHETHER you're looking for spiritual renewal or just a few quiet days at the beach, Ocean Grove certainly has many attributes. Entering through the back gateways of this tiny Victorian seaside community, you can immediately sense that you have arrived at a special place, of the kind that developers would try to create in a tourist attraction. It already exists. This is an authentic, lived-in community.

Most of its homes are Victorian and most of them are immaculate - with turrets, upper-level porches, striped canvas awnings and flower boxes. Even pay phones are in pseudo-Victorian boxes.

Ocean Grove's sloping beach is pleasant, not too narrow and not too crowded. But beach passes must be purchased to use it.

Many people here spend their summers living in a tidy neighborhood of 114 tent structures surrounding Great Auditorium, Ocean Grove's most prominent landmark.

While Ocean Grove has long attracted older folks, it is now becoming popular with younger couples and those with small children.

Ocean Grove is "dry" - no bars or nightclubs, no alcohol served in restaurants. Not a noisy, tacky, honky-tonk, hard-partying beach town, it is so quiet and peaceful that even a loud car radio seems inappropriate.

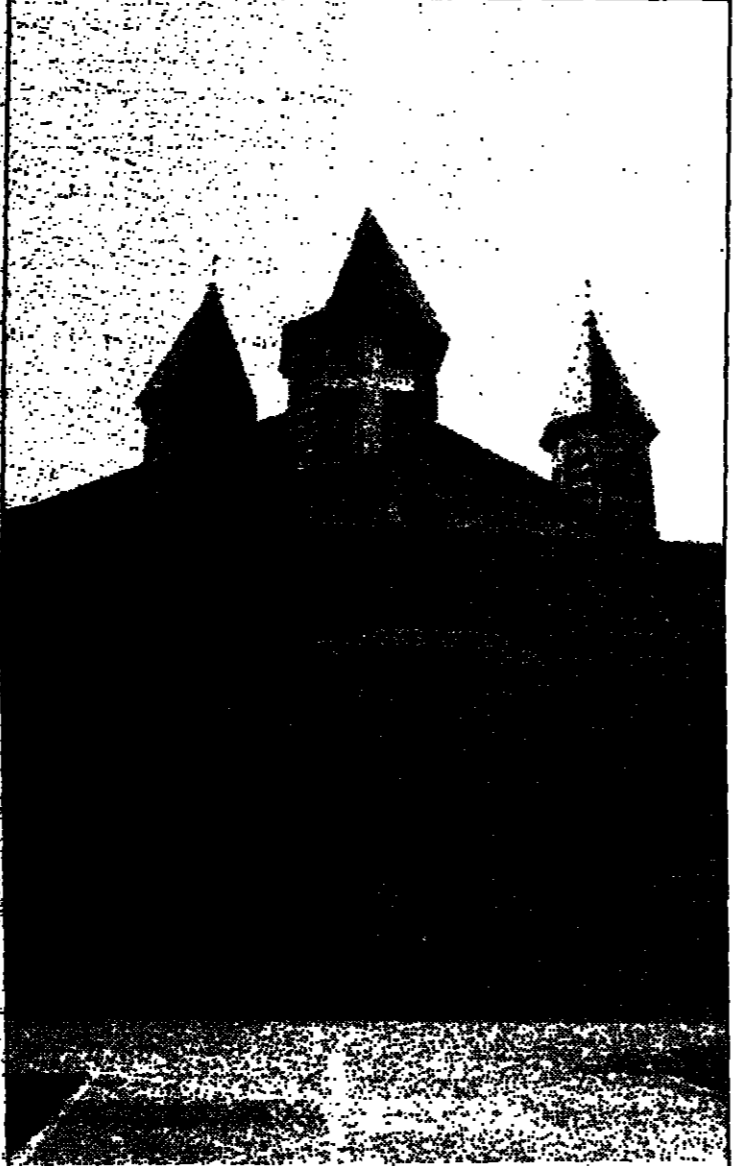
No highways ramble through the community, which has no traffic lights or parking meters. You can park your car for free, right along the boardwalk in mid-July, and leave it there until you go home.

Easily walkable, Ocean Grove covers less than two and a half square kilometers, but seems more spacious. One reason is Ocean Pathway, a wide lawn between the boardwalk and the Great Auditorium.

Much about Ocean Grove makes you feel you've gone back in time - maybe not 100 years, but certainly 30 or 40 - from the old-fashioned Sampler Cafeteria, to Days Ice Cream Parlor, to the huge interior of Great Auditorium, to tiny hotel rooms with no air-conditioning and shared baths.

Ocean Grove was created in 1869 as "a Christian seaside resort." A place Methodists could go for summer religious revivals, called camp meetings, without the "secular influences" of other 19th-century beach communities.

Week-long camp meetings are still held here, although now they are interdenominational.



Ocean Grove's Great Auditorium is surrounded by 114 tents where most visitors to the town stay. (Ready Craft/Allentown Morning Call)

Not everyone in Ocean Grove is Methodist, Protestant or even Christian. The "doors are open" to anyone who wants to visit or live here, said Dr. Anna Nichols, a camp-meeting association trustee. She noted 25 percent of the association's trustees are not Methodists.

Old photos in the camp meeting association office show Ocean Grove's boardwalk area has changed little since the 1920s.

The only structures on the boardwalk are the pavilion, a "members only" fishing pier and a north end building that houses a restaurant and a couple of stores.

No chain restaurants, hotels or stores are in town. With fewer than 10,000 year-round residents, Nichols said there isn't enough business to support them. There is a family-owned supermarket, a pharmacy, one Methodist church, a drug store and several restaurants.

This isn't a town for everyone. The biggest drawback is that most rooms in its more than two dozen old Victorian hotels and guest houses don't have private baths, air conditioning, phones or TVs.

But there are exceptions. One is the recently renovated Ocean Plaza. Its 18 rooms have private

baths, phones, TVs and central air-conditioning. Great Auditorium is the heart of Ocean Grove. The massive pumpkin-colored building with burgundy trim seats about 6,500. Billy Graham and Richard Nixon are among the many famous people who have spoken here.

Tents around the auditorium are leased seasonally, often to the same families for decades. (The Allentown Morning Call)

The Dead Sea's magic kingdom

Ein Fash'ha, a large oasis and nature reserve on the northwestern shores of the Dead Sea, is a magical kingdom.

Known in Hebrew as Einot Tzukim, the site is fed by a spring which comes down from the desert hills - which form an austere backdrop for its lush scenery. The presence of sweet water and vegetation serves to attract a large number of birds, whose chirping provides a continuous background.

A series of water channels meander along, watering a forest of reeds and rushes as they make their way to the Dead Sea. At strategic points, the water has been dammed up to form sweet water pools, where visitors may swim or simply dunk themselves. Many of the pools are extremely shallow and thus suitable for small children.

In the years following the Six-Day War, Ein Fash'ha - four kilometers south of Qumran - was inundated by Israeli visitors enchanted with its beauty. However, on a recent visit, I found that practically all the visitors were residents of the territories, with a few IDF soldiers here and there.

SEE IT HERE HAIM SHAPIRO



Ein Fash'ha offers solitude and lush scenery.

Mahmoud Abu-Ghosh, director of the site, says many Israelis do come, especially on holidays.

There are also visitors from all over the world, he says. He stresses that for him Ein Fash'ha is above politics. It is particularly favored by large families, who cannot afford to spend much on

entertainment. Most families bring their own meat and grill it at the reserve, he says.

"I'm just concerned that everyone should enjoy themselves," Abu-Ghosh stresses.

He points with delight to the fish which swim in the springs and the pools, and at the occasional small

red crab which can be seen making its way slowly along the bed of the water channel.

Although there are dozens of picnic tables and benches throughout the site, he points with pride at his favorite, a table hidden away in the shade of a stand of reeds. There is a wide stream separating the table from the main path, crossed by a wooden walkway. It is actually one of the few picnic tables which visitors cannot approach in their cars.

Visitors can also drive up to the shore of the Dead Sea, where there is a large supply of the rich black mud said to ameliorate skin problems. Because the sea steadily recedes from the shore, a long earth tongue projects into the water, providing access.

In fact, the visitors' area, with its picnic tables, pools and car paths, is less than half of the five-square-kilometer nature reserve. The other part is permanently closed to visitors, thus making it a true refuge for the wildlife of the area.

Ein Fash'ha is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is NIS 20 for children as well as adults.

Feel the salt on your brow - on 'Lot's Wife'

TRAVEL TIPS HAIM SHAPIRO

DESPITE the apparent exodus from Israel of the greater part of the country, thousands of people are still here, and there are plenty of things for them to do during the holiday, including taking a boat trip on the Dead Sea.

The vessel, Lot's Wife, is operated by Kibbutz Ein Gedi and the Dead Sea Sailing Company, and will operate hour-long excursions at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily. The price is NIS 45 per person.

IN ACRE, visitors can take advantage of free tours every hour on the hour, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The tours are available in Hebrew and English, as well as French, Arabic, German and Spanish.

IN JERUSALEM, the Museum of Italian Jewish Art has an exhibition of ancient and modern ritual objects. The museum is open on Hol Hamoed from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

IN THE Latrun area, the local tourism association is sponsoring two tours for cars, along the "Wine Route" and the "Oil Route," and one for jeeps, along the Burma Road, on Saturday and Wednesday. For information and to register, tel. (050) 251381 or (081) 8502240.

KIBBUTZ Kfar Hanasi is holding a Sheep-Shearing Festival from Monday through Wednesday, with activities for the entire family. For information tel. (06) 6914870.

FOR THE holiday, the Government Tourist Corporation is

to make wheelchairs available for those who have difficulty walking at the Hula, Tel-Dan, and Neot Kedumim reserves and at Jerusalem's Botanical Gardens where paths have been prepared for the disabled. Beit She'an and Avdat, wheelchairs will also be provided on existing paths.

VISITORS WILL be able to see the reenactment of a village from the talmudic period at Katzrin Park, during Hol Hamoed. A similar reenactment from the days of the Mishna is to take place on

Sunday and Monday at Tzפור.

A FESTIVAL of music, workshops and crafts for sale is to be held in the caves of Beit Guvrin on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. A Crusader fair at Caesarea and an old-fashioned country fair at the Eshkol National Park in the Negev will take place those same days.

FOR CHILDREN, a fairy-tale playground will take place at Sachne on Saturday and Sunday, when the Nabatean town of Mamshit resumes its character as a spice route station.

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CAPITAL 02-794811, GERMAN Colony, entire ground floor, arab house, huge garden, quiet, parking.

CAPITAL 02-794811, OLD KATANIA, new, excellent, town house, 5 + store room (with window), garden.

CAPITAL 02-794811, CLOSE Jerusalem Theater, 1st floor, quiet, southern, large balcony, parking.

CENTRAL 3, COMPACT, well kept, 1st floor, near Old City! \$145,000 flexible OFFER REALTY (Malden) Tel. 02-668-802.

EAST TALPIOT (ALKH), 4 + terrace, view, sunny, \$229,000. Shiran Exclusive through Revadim Real Estate. Tel. 02-731362.

REHAVIA, 4, LUXURIOUS, beautifully refurbished, American kitchen, central A/C, sunny, 1st floor. \$425,000, 02-63560(N.S)

FIVE SPACIOUS ROOMS, quiet, central (Shal Agnon), Luxurious building, elevator, Tel. 02-619659.

GERMAN COLONY, 2, quiet, central, 20 sqm basement, garden, underground parking, immediate. "ISRABUILD" Tel. 02-666571

GERMAN COLONY, 3, quiet, central, new building, parking, balconies, IMMEDIATE. "ISRABUILD" Tel. 02-666571.

GERMAN COLONY (EMEK RAFAIM), 4, spacious + balcony. \$249,000. Shiran Exclusive through Revadim Real Estate. Tel. 02-731362.

GERMAN COLONY, 5, luxury, quiet, storage, parking, lift, \$400,000. Tel. 02-724237 (no commission).

GERMAN COLONY, PENTHOUSE, 5, new, improved, 3rd floor, + elevator, open terrace, \$510,000, Tel. 02-619531.

GERMAN COLONY (HAMALITZ), 3 large rooms, 1st floor, to be renovated, elevator, quiet, balconies, \$280,000. Keys, exclusive to Shiran, through Anglo Saxon. Tel. 02-251181.

GERMAN COLONY, PENTHOUSE, 5, New building, quiet, central, elevator, parking, serious only. "israbuild". Tel. 02-666571.

GREEK COLONY, 2 ROOMS + large balcony. Arab-style, \$225,000. Tel. 09-426824.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY, WOLFSON, 5, 11th floor, view of Knesset, storage, parking, \$495,000. "ISRABUILD". Tel. 02-666-571.

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HOLY LAND, VERY SPECIAL penthouse, terrace, fabulous panoramic view. Exclusive Naldan Plus. Tel. 02-654010 (Shimon).

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PETAH TIQVA 64 Orlov St. Tel. 03-9347111

RISHON LEZION 16 Zabotinsky St. Canyon Lev Rishon Tel. 03-9678822

DWELLINGS

HEART OF MOSHAVA - 200 m., penthouse + 60 m. loft, balcony, private elevator, parking, high standard. Alex Losky Real Estate, 19 King David St. Tel. 2-235595.

MAMILLA PENTHOUSE: EXQUISITE interior, fabulous Old City view from roof & living room, terrace, double parking, storage. Alex Losky Real Estate, 19 King David St. Tel. 2-235595.

REHAVIA (BEN MAIMON) beautiful apartments, under construction, exclusive to "Idan". Tel. 02-7348345, 050-242070.

Rehavia - One of a Kind
Luxurious, 5 1/2 large rooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms, 3 balconies, central air-cond./heat, 181/212 sq.m., entire 2nd floor, storeroom, private parking, elevator, high design standard, many amenities.

VICINITY OF KING DAVID, 4, luxurious dining room, modern, quiet, parking, storeroom. T.A.C. Tel. 02-631-764.

RAMAT AVIV GIMMEL, luxurious apartments & houses for rent. ADPS PROPERTIES. Tel. 03-6416386.

4 ROOMS, EXCLUSIVE, PARKING, swimming pool, view, immediate, Ussishkin, Tel. 03-5467946, 052-450288.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

HAIFA CHRISTIAN
BEIT ELIAHU (EVANGELICAL Messianic Congregation) Haifa, 43 Meir Street, Tel. 04-523581.

JERUSALEM
REDEEMER CHURCH - Lutheran, Muristan Rd. Old City, Jerusalem. Sunday services: English 9:30 a.m., German 10:30 a.m. Tel. 276111, 231049.

SHARON CHRISTIAN
HAMIKRA, 9:45 a.m. Shabbat, Coastal Hwy, Yaffa, "PANCAKE" exit. 06-225047, "The Woman's Study Bible, Dr. Dorothy Patterson, May 1996.

WHERE TO GO

HEBREW UNIVERSITY. All campuses of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem are closed for the week of Passover. Regular tours of the Mount Scopus campus will resume on Thursday, April 11.

HAIFA
WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-374253.

TEL AVIV
Conducted Tours
WIZO. To visit our projects call Tel Aviv 692323; Jerusalem 255060; Haifa 388817.

ART GUIDE

HAIFA
THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM. (Haifa University). Permanent exhibition: "The People of Israel in Eretz Yisrael - Phoenicians on the Northern Coast of Israel in the Roman Period Cassarea - a Mercantile City by the Sea - Impressionism and the Jewish School of Paris. Open Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 10-12, 10-7, Fri. 10-1, Sat. 10-2 ADMISSION FREE.

JERUSALEM
Museum
OLD YESHUV COURT MUSEUM. Life in the Jewish community in the Old City, mid-19th century - World War II. 6 Or Hanaim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART. Eight in November - Gilksberg, Gross, Reisman, Shelsynsk, Almog, Barak, Gal, David Van Dyck and his Collections. HELEN RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Hours: 10:00 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue.-Thu., 10:00 a.m.-Fri. Sat., 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Art Education Center, closed for renovations. Tel. 6919155/67.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

GENERAL ASSISTANCE EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Friday, April 5
Jerusalem: Jaffa Gate, 283896; Beisam, Salah e-Din, 272315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 810108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282058.

DUTY HOSPITALS
Friday, April 5
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (Internal, pediatric); Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (obstetrics); Bikur Holim (ENT).

Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.
Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.

POLICE 100
FIRE 102
FIRST AID 101

Megan David Adom
in emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. in addition:

Hadassah/Jerusalem Municipal Health Center for Adolescents, 6 Chlo St., Kfar Hayovel, Jm. Advice by phone 02-433882.

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For Sale in Caesarea
EXCLUSIVE! Semi-detached house, swimming pool, view, terrace, central air conditioning, 5 bedrooms & swimming pool, great walking distance to the beach.

HERZLIYA PITUAH
Exclusive - For Sale
Magnificent home set on one acre. Swimming pool, separate living room, separate dining room, marvelous entertaining area, superb kitchen, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, basement, marble counters. \$2,500,000.

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3 rooms, 2 balconies, 125 sq.m., full sea view, down-town Netanya.
New! \$350,000!!
Tel. 09-820951, 052-388899

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ROK SALTIN ZACHONYA COV
In the Givat Eitan neighborhood, a new and fully invested private home built on a 750sq.m. plot, this spacious country style property boasts state flooring, full air conditioning, fireplace, balconies, gardens and magical views.

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Netanya, 5-room cottage, 2 parking spaces, pastoral view, \$350,000.
4-room apartment, 135 sq.m., sea view, \$250,000.

Pinat Haim
For People who Recognize Potential
In Mekor Haim, close to Baka and the German Colony
* Excellent municipal services and social amenities
* Easy access to town + Developed surroundings
* Quiet street with little traffic

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For only 3 "Zuzim" you can own this fabulous property in Caesarea
This magnificent very large home on almost 4 dunam (1 acre) of beautiful gardens will comfortably accommodate your Pesach guests next year! The house comes with a fully equipped kitchen (including garbage compactor), 5 bedrooms, den, dining room, terraces, laundry room, separate quarters for live in help, basement, double garage and many other features. A 5 minute walk to the golf course. Truly, must be seen by appointment only.

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Invest \$19,500 (+ VAD) in agricultural land - before rezoning!
Enjoy the uplift on rezoned land of almost 500%!
Take advantage of our offer & trade your land for a luxury holiday apartment worth about \$120,000, without paying any building cost! (offer retracted - offer subject to certain qualifying conditions)

Teperberg Realty specialize in neighbourhoods that other people dream of.
Original Templar house on the most beautiful street in the German Colony.
2 bedroom, renovated, private entrance and garden. Perfect pied-a-terre.

DWELLINGS

EXCLUSIVE! QUIET NORTH of Tel Aviv... 200 sq.m. on a level + roof...

EXCLUSIVE! ZAHALAH 1,000 sq.m. plot... 130 sq.m. built \$1,200,000...

FOR SALE FOR investment, 2 room holiday apartment in apartment tower...

GORDON ST., NEAR the beach, new house... 3 bedrooms, elevator...

INVESTMENT! JAFFA, APTS. & garages... new building, close to sea...

KFAR GANIM (PETAH TIKVA), 6.5 + roof... 3 rooms, apartments + penthouse...

KING DAVID'S TOWERS - pool, guard, 24 hr... 3 room apartments + penthouse...

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NORTH TEL AVIV, 4 room apartment, big living room, high floor, "Glasch"...

NORTH TEL AVIV, Zeldin, 130 sq. m. first floor, on pillars, elevator...

NORTH TEL AVIV (Shikun Dan), new cottage, 6 rooms, 250 sq.m. built...

ON - KING DAVID, PENTHOUSE APARTMENT, 4 rooms, access to garden...

PENTHOUSE, NEAR KIKAR Hamedna, no agents, 3 + 1 + roof...

RAMAT AVIV, GIMMEL, KASHANI, new, 4-12, 11th floor, doorman, parking...

RISHON LEZION (NEVE VAM), beautiful cottage, 7 + basement + garden...

WACHSLER REAL ESTATE Kfar Shmaryahu

4 room apartment - 3rd floor \$465,000

NORTH TEL AVIV - NEW! 5 room apartment - parking, lift \$585,000

Penhouse 170 sq.m. \$680,000

DEREK NAMIR, TEL AVIV 3 room apartment \$270,000

DWELLINGS Dan Region

SALES KIRYAT ONO, HIGH and central, 7 rooms, 400 m. property, 300 built...

DWELLINGS Southern Coast

RENTALS AZOREI-CHEN, FOUR BEDROOMS, sea view apartment, extras, \$1600...

SALES REHOVOT, FOR RELIGIOUS, 4.5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, possible immediate entry...

DWELLINGS Sharon Area

INTERCITY REAL ESTATE AGENCY LUXURY APARTMENTS FOR SALE IN RA'ANANA

DWELLINGS

Shaaron Area GENERAL

Real Estate & Investment Dov Leberman 09-421943

Must sell! Multilevel cottage, special design \$425,000

Garden Apt. 5 rm. cobble street, central location \$325,000

Luxury House New, very high quality, prime location \$720,000

Plots Residential, commercial & industrial for sale & investment

Kfar Shmaryahu For serious only! 330 sq.m. built to beautiful standard on 1/2 dunam land \$920,000

80 Ahaza Ra'anana

RA'ANANA RENTALS Large selection including

3 rm, furnished \$700

4 rm, sun balcony, pool \$750

5 rm, new, sun balcony, 150 sq.m., long term \$850

Charming 5.5 rm cottage \$975

RA'ANANA SALES "Life at the Top"

For the best selection of Roof Top Apts & Penthouses: From \$285,000

Almax Real Estate, Golden Center, 199 Ahaza, Ra'anana

RA'ANANA PESACH SPECIAL Brand new luxury cottages

"Ganei Ha'kochav" 7 rooms with 80 sq.m. basement

Spacious master suite with jacuzzi bath

Dutch paved cut-de-sac

Exclusive area, modern design

Sole agency Pesach Price \$535,000

RENTALS HERZLIYA PITUAH, FURNISHED house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garden...

FOR RENTALS IN GALEY TAMELET ST. in Herzliya Pituach, 4 bedrooms + basement + swimming pool, "Bayt Vegan"...

HERZLIYA PITUAH, 2-ROOM apartment in Sharon Hotel, June 3 - and Sept. Tel. 09-589461.

HERZLIYA TZIRA, LOVELY, furnished, 5.5 cottage, basement, 3 years available, Tel. of August, Tel. 09-573794.

HERZLIYA PITUAH, GALEI Tchelet, Diplomatic residence, long term, Levina, Tel. 09-557-688.

HERZLIYA PITUAH AND Kfar SHMARA, selection of beautiful villas for rent, Shmaryahu, Tel. 09-570578.

HERZLIYA, 4, SPACIOUS, sea view, immediate occupancy, furnished/unfurnished, Levina, Tel. 09-557-688.

OKEANUS, 2 BEDROOMS, Fully furnished, High floor, sea view, long/short term rent, LTAM REAL ESTATE, Tel. 09-588-671.

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4 room beautiful apt., 3rd floor with air, quiet central location, \$250,000

5 room apt. with BR, 160 sq.m., excellent condition \$270,000

Must sell! 6 room cottage \$618,000

6 room cottage with basement, 350/600, prime location \$750,000

RENTAL 6 room cottage with basement, swimming pool & air conditioning, long term \$4,000

6 room villa in excellent location with air conditioning & cupboards, \$1,300

New 5 room apt. with BR & air conditioning

NETANYA Anglo-Saxon Pessach Exclusives

NETZA Sea-facing 4 rooms with air-conditioning & balcony plus swimming pool \$480,000

SHILOMO HAMELECH For religious buyers only! Large 5.5 rooms plus 2 balconies \$400,000

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MORIL Lovely compact apt. with balcony & seaview, plus storeroom \$240,000

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ANGLO-SAXON NETANYA 12 N. 225 St. Netanya Tel. 09-522670

evergreen Sharon Hotel Herzliya Pituach Tel. 09-583333 Fax: 09-588657

In Herzliya Pituach For sale

Offices on the beach - 2 and 3 room apartments - from \$410,000

The best selection of villas for sale and for rent - all price ranges

Center of Tel Aviv Magnificent Duplex penthouse, walking distance from the sea, \$2,450,000

...and more!!!

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5 room, DESIRABLE STREET 190/300 Superb condition \$365,000

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RENTAL 4 ROOM APT. with pool \$700

39 OSTROVSKY 09-7714042

BEAUTIFUL VILLAI in the center, on seafront, \$3,500,000, Tel. 09-564051; 050-328283.

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE in Herzliya, Bet + large office, \$1,100,000, Tel. 09-583287

HERZLIYA PITUACH

For sale in Herzliya Pituach

*Kaphan St. Excellent location! Unique house with beautiful garden and swimming pool, on 1 dunam plot.

*Villa in a very quiet location! 5 rooms, 600 sq.m. plot, covered parking.

*Large selection of houses for renovation.

*Magnificent penthouse with sea view.

*Holiday & residential apartments along the seafloor, 1-5 rooms.

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HERZLIYA, OPPORTUNITY, SPECIAL and beautiful cottage, 6 rooms, \$385,000, Tel. 09-553-961, 050-351-033.

KFAR SAVA, SPACIOUS, 4 rooms, 2 bathrooms, closet, 3rd floor, elevator, Tel. 09-767-2586.

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FOR SALE MAC LCII LOADED, modem, cd/rom, HP printer, lots of software, Hebrew/English, Tel. 02-634347, fax 02-611578.

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Haifa and North OFFICE STAFF WELL ESTABLISHED PLASTICS manufacturer seeks assistant manager for export department with excellent English, full-time job, Haifa. Tel. 04-8537307, 04-8512974.

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PERSONALS Jerusalem CULTURED, SHEIK, ORTHODOX, Jerusalem, 48, previously married, attractive, job de vigne, seeks serious relationship with warm, loving, well educated, "yare shamayim", P.O.B. 23086, Jerusalem 91230.

MISCELLANEOUS Jerusalem OPENING ZEN-DO in Jerusalem (center for Zen meditation), non-profit. For details call Tel. 02-412-927.

National Marketing Company for Technical Equipment requires OFFICE MANAGER

* Fluent Hebrew/English, including work on computer.

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Good conditions for suitable. Send handwritten C.V., including details of former experience, to POB 1334, Tel Aviv, for L-58417. Discretion assured.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tel Aviv CHURCH SERVICES FRIENDSHIP HOUSE (THE Redeemed Christian Church of God), Services held Saturdays at City Hotel, 9 Mapu Street, off Ben-Yehuda Street, Tel Aviv. Time: 4 p.m..

VEHICLES General PASSPORT CYPRUS DUTY-FREE CARS: Selling, repurchasing, storage, shipping, problems? Davidson, Tel. 02-420-234.

1994 MAZDA 323; 1994 Grand Loni Station; 1990 Jaguar XJ6, Coln, Tel. 09-589637, 052-423327.

HONDA LEGEND, DELUXE, like new, 1994, passport to passport. Tel. 03-5342724.

RENAULT 19, 1.4, 1994, 32,500km, fully loaded, excellent condition. Tel. 02-993-3082.

TAX - FREE cars, oiled, tourist, etc. Bought and sold. Tel. 09-583837, 052-423327.

VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT, 1,800, 1988, standard shift, 84,000 km. Tel. 052-405-236.

UNRESTRICTED ARIE PALOGE - QUALITY CARS: buying, selling, leasing, trading. 02-6523735, 050-240977.

UNRESTRICTED CASH FOR CARS, new/used, sales/trade, Auto City, Tomer Dotan, Tel. 02-726-266, 050-367-192.

B-G Airport jammed as thousands holiday abroad

HAIM SHAPIRO, ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, and news agencies

BEN-GURION Airport was jammed with out-going passengers last night, as thousands of Israelis left for a Pessah vacation following a seder at home.

El Al spokesman Nachman Kliezman estimated that the airline would be flying 11,000 passengers between the end of the first day of Pessah and the beginning of Shabbat.

He said thousands of others have already left the country afternoon on foreign airlines.

Thousands of other Israelis spent the holiday in the Galilee, despite the recent tension along the northern border. Hoteliers in the region reported they were filled to near capacity.

One Jewish group of 97 came from abroad to spend the holiday week in Nahariya's Carlton Hotel. "We came to the Western Galilee, among other reasons, as a sign of identity with the people of the North," said Robbie Davidman, organizer of the group of Young Israel members from the US and Britain.

Carrying on with IDF tradition, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak celebrated the seder with troops. This year, Shabak, together with his family, chose the Judea and Samaria Division, where they participated in the seder at division headquarters in Beit El, the army said.

Last year, Shabak celebrated seder with the Liaison Unit in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, what was said to be the world's largest seder in this tiny Himalayan kingdom. About 1,000 Jews took part, organizers said.

Many of the participants at the Kathmandu seder were young Israeli backpackers, organizers from the Lubavitch World Headquarters in New York said. "Yes, I feel the absence of my family. But I am happy for being able to celebrate together with other friends," said Golan Hova, 21, who is on a trip to Nepal after completing her army service. "All Israelis are like a family."

Two rabbis sent by the Lubavitch Headquarters led the seder.

"Pessah is the unity of the Jews as a nation and expresses our feelings of being united," Rabbi Levi Wolf, 22, said.

Organizers said about one ton of kosher meat, wine, Haggadot, and provisions were sent by the Lubavitch headquarters.

In Sarajevo, Jews celebrated Pessah three days late two years ago, because the matza didn't make it

through the siege on time. Last year, sniper bullets killed a French UN soldier minutes before the seder. This year, the tiny Jewish community gathered in peace.

Community leader Jakob Finci said there was a special message for Bosnia in the Pessah story: "Once you reach your liberation ... there is no reason for hate."

"For the last two years we celebrated Pessah with prayers for freedom," he said. "Now, we achieved peace."

After four years of war, the Jews of Sarajevo had to skip most of the dinner - but more than 200 gathered in the synagogue for the seder.

American-born Rabbi Moshe Tutmaner, who now lives in Jerusalem, led the seder for a congregation which has not had its own rabbi for 30 years.

Finci, who is president of La Benevolencia, the 104-year-old Jewish humanitarian society, said another important message of Passover for Bosnia is: "You have to forgive; you don't have to forget."

"Maybe we can help Moslems, Serbs, and Croats again to live together," he said. "In all the holy books of all the religions, it is written that we have to forgive."

The Jewish community in Sarajevo is one of the oldest in former Yugoslavia, founded by Jews who fled Spain in 1565. Almost no Jews were left here after World War II, but the community was gradually reestablished and about 1,200 lived here before the break-up of Yugoslavia.

Finci said about 1,000 Jews left after fighting started in 1992, but about 300 people with Jewish heritage joined the congregation during the war, and it now numbers about 500.

But the seder night congregation was overwhelmingly grey-haired, with only a dozen children. There was a sprinkling of what Finci called "wandering Jews" from the US, Israel, and the Netherlands.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee flew in matza and wine from Israel. Sherry Hahn, of Arlington, Mass., who came with 75 tons of humanitarian aid collected by American branches of Hadassah, also brought a kosher chicken bone for the seder plate.

But there is no kosher meat in Sarajevo, so the congregation enjoyed a meal of eggs, matza filled with cheese or vegetables, and wine.



Rabbi Levi Wolf, 22, of Morristown, N.J., prepares the traditional seder plate for the seder in Kathmandu, Nepal. (AP)

Negev pioneers retrace their tracks 50 years later

LIAT COLLINS

SOME 50 years after Palmah members and Hanoar Ha'oved Vehalomed youths set out on camels to discover the Negev, another caravan is set to retrace the route during Pessah to discuss ways of boosting the local economy and tourism.

The original reconnaissance party toured for eight days in January 1945 to map the area, which was still out of bounds to Jews by order of the British Mandate. The information gathered is considered to have played a vital role

in later allowing Israeli forces to take Eilat.

Among those on the original trip were then-Jewish Agency head David Ben-Gurion, and Shimon Persky, then head of the Noar Ha'oved Vehalomed youth movement, who reportedly changed his name to Peres during the trip, after seeing a picture, peres in Hebrew. At Umm Rashrash (today's Eilat), some of the group were caught and impris-

oned by the British.

Peres was expected to take part in the tour last night, along with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, a former mayor of Arad.

The eight-day tour, still on camels but anything but secret, is scheduled to start at Mitzpeh Revivim, which in 1945 was the most southerly point settled by Jews.

Participants will sleep under the stars at night and discuss a different aspect of developing the

Negev, such as tourism, industry, environment protection. The participants include geologists, archeologists, botanists, and educators, as well as tourism entrepreneurs. Among the Beduin members of the tour will be Amar Abu Muzammir, the son of Oda Abu Amar, who participated in the original trek.

Hikers will be able to join the riders for the discussions at different points. Details will be available at information booths throughout the Negev.

Churches' Easter message asks Palestinians to stop violence

IN an Easter message issued Tuesday, the heads of the Christian churches in Jerusalem called upon the Palestinians to stop violence, but they also called upon the Israeli government to ease up on security measures.

Catholics and Protestants are to mark Easter this Sunday, while the Orthodox churches are to celebrate the festival the following week. Thousands of pilgrims are expected for the holiday, including an as yet unspecified number of Copts from Egypt.

"We address our appeal to our Palestinian people, Christians and Moslems, and invite them to

allow peace to be born and to cease all violence," says the message, which is signed by the heads of all the historic churches in Jerusalem.

The church leaders also address the same appeal to the Jewish people, noting that the Palestinians are the partners of the Israelis in the peace process.

"As we sympathize with the families of the victims of extremism, we feel the pain of every home and every family deprived from jobs, exposed to a painful daily life, due to the closure im-

posed as a reprisal... We understand that fighting extremism is not an easy task. We understand the responsibility of the governments to protect the innocent people from all extremism. But we understand also that, in this task, our governments should never indulge in the same logic of violence which it condemns itself as extremism," they said.

The present security measures are punishing only Palestinians, the church leaders said. In a separate appeal, the church leaders called on the government to stop land expropriations in Bethlehem.

MANHATTAN - STYLE CONDOS IN THE HEART OF ISRAEL



ARCHITECT Y. ASSA

GRUNER TOWER

Located just a few blocks from the Ramat Gan Diamond Exchange, Gruner Tower offers you super-luxury living in true Manhattan style - just a 5 minute drive from Tel Aviv's business, entertainment and shopping centers. From the moment you step into the elegant lobby with its round-the-clock concierge, you'll feel at home in Gruner Tower. There are 2-3 room luxury studio suites from 55sqm (600 sq.ft.), complete with all the home appliances you'll need. There is a private spa level with heated pool, fitness room, and whirlpool, and your own covered private parking. Gruner Tower is your Manhattan-style home in the very center of Israel.

Only 8 two-room apartments remain!
2-room (55sqm) apartments from \$ 215,500
3-room (72sqm) apartments from \$ 267,000
Gruner Tower. A new standard of prestigious living.

דוקטור השקעות בע"מ

Come and visit the new model apartment!
Drora, our Sales Manager, will be happy to meet you for coffee at our sales office, 5 Rashi St., Ramat Gan, Tel: 03-5758619/9.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl, 5, dies in car accident

Odelia Iliya, 5, was killed and her parents and four other relatives were injured when a truck crashed head-on into their car on the Kiryat Gat-Kiryat Malachi road on Wednesday afternoon. The father, who was driving the family south for the holiday, had pulled the car over to the shoulder.

Army APCs getting better armor

IDF armored personnel carriers, repeatedly subject to Sagger missile attacks in South Lebanon, are getting new, home-grown armor protection, the Defense Ministry said. Developed by Rafael, the protection system is being installed on the M-113 APC currently in operational duty in the IDF, the ministry said.

Car hits child crossing street

A six-year-old boy was injured in Rishon LeZion last night by a car which ran into him as he was crossing the street. After receiving first aid from Magen David Adom, he was brought to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer.

Rothschild Prize winners named

The 1996 Rothschild Prizes are to be awarded to Tel Aviv University Prof. Moshe Gil for Jewish studies; Weizmann Institute Prof. Yosef Imri for physics; and TAU Prof. Edward Kosover for chemistry. The awards will be presented on May 26, the Rothschild Prizes Organization announced.

Settlements get money

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday authorized the transfer of some NIS 20 million to settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza and the Golan Heights for development and agricultural projects. The Golan Heights settlements were allocated NIS 5m; Judea and Samaria NIS 5.5m; Gush Katif and Har Hevron, NIS 4.5m.; and the Jordan Valley settlements, NIS 5m.

The funds will be forwarded via the Jewish Agency. The committee also decided to transfer NIS 26m. to the Druse sector.

Aviv, Yonatan Gefen in joint show

Pop superstar Aviv Gefen will host his father - playwright, author, and entertainer, Yonatan Gefen - at a special one-time concert at the 1996 Israel Festival. Aviv will perform numbers from his latest release, *The Letter*, and a selection of his father's songs. This is the first time they have appeared together and there are hints they may even sing together.

KEREN OR Jerusalem Center for Multi-Handicapped Blind Children
3 Abba Hillel Silver Street - Ramot - Tel. 02-869626

TOURISTS? LOOKING FOR A GRATIFYING AND HEART-WARMING CHOL HAMOED, OR POST-PASSOVER ACTIVITY?

You are cordially invited to visit KEREN-OR, Jerusalem Center for Multi-handicapped Blind Children, a 15-minute ride from the heart of Jerusalem, in Ramot Aleph, just off Sderot Golda Meir and Rechov Harry Truman.

Meet our multi-disabled blind children and see the unbelievable strides towards independence being made every day. Tour our fully-equipped state-of-the-art residential facility. Observe the miracles performed by a dedicated and loving staff.

To arrange for a visit please call:
Mr. Moshe Rips, Principal and Educational Director 02-869626, 02-6523374

Handwritten signature or note in the bottom right corner of the page.

SPORTS



IT AIN'T NOTHING 'TIL I CALL IT - Yankees catcher Jim Leyritz and Indians Kenny Lofton look to the home plate umpire for the call. Lofton was out trying to score on an infield grounder.

Collymore's late strike wins for Liverpool

LIVERPOOL (AP) - Stan Collymore scored an injury-time winner for Liverpool over Newcastle in a 4-3 thriller at Anfield Wednesday for a result that may well hand the Premier League title to Manchester United.

Fowler headed home from three yards. But Newcastle hit back with two goals in four minutes. Asprilla slipped the ball through Neil Ruddock's legs and then sent over a cross from the right. Ferdinand controlled the ball and spun round before firing powerfully into the roof of the net from 10 yards.

result neither team wanted. A tie meant one point for each but Collymore made sure all three went to Liverpool. Team-mates John Barnes and substitute Ian Rush seemed to fumble and hesitate over the ball inside the Newcastle area before Barnes spotted Collymore overlapping on the left. He slipped the ball out to the striker who powered it first-time into the net from an acute angle.

Twins romp over Tigers

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Ron Cramer had three hits and three RBIs, and three Detroit errors led to six unearned runs as the Minnesota Twins scored 14 straight times to rally for a 16-7 victory Wednesday over the Tigers.

Rangers 7, Red Sox 2
Juan Gonzalez and Mickey Tettleton both drove in two runs, leading Texas to home win.

15-mph wind, went over the right-field fence and landed outside Wrigley Field for a 4-0 lead.

Minnesota won its first series of 1996. The Twins needed nearly two months to accomplish that last season.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Astros 5, Dodgers 2
Mike Hampton outpitched 1995 Rookie of the Year Hideo Nomo, and Derek Bell drove in two runs as Houston won at home.

Braves 15, Giants 2
Fred McGriff set a career high with six RBIs, and host Atlanta showed its hitting might be as good as its vaunted pitching.

Minnesota won its first series of 1996. The Twins needed nearly two months to accomplish that last season.

Cardinals 5, Mets 3
Royce Clayton's two-out single in the bottom of the seventh inning scored winning pitcher Todd Stottlemyre with an unearned run that broke a 3-3 tie.

Phillies 3, Rockies 1
Rookie Mike Grace, making only his third appearance in the major leagues, carried a shutout into the ninth inning.

Minnesota won its first series of 1996. The Twins needed nearly two months to accomplish that last season.

Reds 4, Expos 3
Grudzielanek homered in a five-run eighth inning - his career-high fourth hit - as visiting Montreal beat error-prone Cincinnati.

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Padres 7, Cubs 5
Ken Caminiti broke open the game with a three-run homer, and finished with four RBIs as visiting San Diego recovered from a tough opening-day loss.

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Betar J'lem hosts Mac TA in State Cup quarter-finals

THE weekend's top State Cup attraction will be at Teddy Stadium tomorrow for the crunch game between Betar Jerusalem and Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Relegation struggler Betar Tel Aviv gets an opportunity to dispel its National League blues against Ironi Rishon LeZion. Ironi has had the stronger showing between the two sides, with a comprehensive 3-0 win over Hapoel Beit She'an in the last round, while Betar only edged past Zafirim Holon after a penalty shoot out.

With the focus on the Cup there are no National League games this weekend. There is a full program of action in the Second Division's 23rd round, while the Sportoto form - offering a top prize of NIS 10 million this weekend - includes three Third Division games.

Current cup holder Maccabi Haifa takes on this season's No. 1 giant killer, Maccabi Sha'arayim. Third Division Sha'arayim has so far accounted for six scalps on its march to its quarter-final date.

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Grizzlies finally come out on top

VANCOUVER (AP) - The Vancouver Grizzlies snapped their 23-game losing streak, beating the Minnesota Timberwolves 105-103 Wednesday on a last-second outburst by Blue Edwards that prevented the Grizzlies from tying against the Cavaliers. The loss finished a 4-2 trip for Los Angeles.

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	2	0	1.000
New York	2	0	1.000
Toronto	2	0	1.000
Detroit	0	2	.333 1.5
Boston	0	2	.000 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	2	0	1.000
Montreal	1	1	.500 1
New York	1	1	.500 1
Philadelphia	1	1	.500 1
Florida	0	2	.000 2

West Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	2	1	.667 .5
Milwaukee	1	1	.500 1
Chicago	1	1	.500 1
Cleveland	0	2	.000 1.5
Kansas City	0	2	.000 1.5

Central Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
Pittsburgh	2	0	1.000
Houston	2	1	.667 .5
Chicago	1	1	.500 1
Cincinnati	1	1	.500 1
St. Louis	1	1	.500 1

West Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
Colorado	1	1	.500
San Diego	1	1	.500
Los Angeles	0	2	.000 1
San Francisco	0	2	.000 1

International rugby debuts here

SCRIMS and lineouts, alias rugby, will be on show at Herzliya's Soccer Stadium on Sunday at 3 pm when Israel hosts Luxembourg in the FIRA European Rugby tournament, the first international game on Israeli soil.

HEATHER CHAIT THE LOCAL SCENE

coached by Alan Polatinsky assisted by Chaim Pe'er and Jeremy Schander.

WEDNESDAY'S AL RESULTS

Minnesota 16, Detroit 7
Chicago 4, Seattle 2
New York 5, Cleveland 1
Baltimore 7, Kansas City 1
Texas 7, Boston 2
Toronto 18, Oakland 4
California 3, Milwaukee 2 (11)

Former NBA players shot

Former NBA player Dallas Conegs was fighting for his life in a Turkish hospital last night after being shot outside a nightclub following a row with the club's bouncer.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	5	1	.753 1.5
New York	4	2	.667 2
Miami	3	3	.500 2.5
Washington	3	3	.500 2.5
New Jersey	2	4	.333 3
Boston	2	4	.333 3
Philadelphia	1	5	.167 4

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
San Antonio	5	1	.740 1.5
Utah	4	2	.667 2
Houston	4	2	.667 2
Dallas	3	3	.500 2.5
Minnesota	2	4	.333 3
Detroit	2	4	.333 3
Vancouver	1	5	.167 4

WEDNESDAY'S AL RESULTS

Minnesota 16, Detroit 7
Chicago 4, Seattle 2
New York 5, Cleveland 1
Baltimore 7, Kansas City 1
Texas 7, Boston 2
Toronto 18, Oakland 4
California 3, Milwaukee 2 (11)

TUESDAY'S AL RESULTS

New York 7, Cleveland 1
Baltimore 4, Kansas City 2
Detroit 10, Minnesota 6
Seattle 3, Chicago 2
Milwaukee 15, California 9

WEDNESDAY'S NL RESULTS

St. Louis 5, New York 3
San Diego 7, Chicago 5
Houston 4, Los Angeles 2
Philadelphia 3, Colorado 1
Atlanta 15, San Francisco 2
Montreal 8, Cincinnati 4

TUESDAY'S NL RESULTS

Cincinnati 4, Montreal 1
Philadelphia 1, Florida 1
Colorado 5, Philadelphia 3
Houston 5, Los Angeles 4

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	5	1	.795 1.5
L.A. Lakers	4	2	.667 2
Phoenix	3	3	.500 2.5
Portland	3	3	.500 2.5
Sacramento	3	3	.500 2.5
Golden State	3	3	.500 2.5
L.A. Clippers	2	4	.333 3
Vancouver	2	4	.333 3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
San Antonio	5	1	.740 1.5
Utah	4	2	.667 2
Houston	4	2	.667 2
Dallas	3	3	.500 2.5
Minnesota	2	4	.333 3
Detroit	2	4	.333 3
Vancouver	1	5	.167 4

SCOREBOARD

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS: Washington 4, Buffalo 1; Ottawa 3, Florida 2; Boston 4, Chicago 5; Toronto 4, Winnipeg 3; Dallas 1; St. Louis 6, Colorado 3; Calgary 4, Vancouver 3; Anaheim 1, Edmonton 0; Detroit 2, Los Angeles 6, NY Islanders 2; NY Rangers 3, New Jersey 1; San Jose 6, Detroit 3.

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IFA orders replay of Hap. RG-Taiba game

THE IFA's disciplinary court yesterday ordered a replay between Second Division teams Hapoel Ramat Gan and Hapoel Taiba following a marathon hearing on Tuesday.

The court handed down its verdict on the events which led to the abandonment of last weekend's fixture between the two clubs with Ramat Gan leading 2-0.

The court has ordered the teams to replay the game behind closed doors at Ramat Gan's ground.

Israel-Spain Davis Cup action today

ISRAEL'S No. 1 racket Eyal Ran, kicks off Israel's Davis Cup challenge against favored Spain's Carlos Costa in the Davis Cup tie which starts at Ramat Hasharon today.

The second match pits No. 2 Eyal Erlich against Alberto Costa.

Ran will play the first singles rubber on Sunday against Alberto Costa, with Erlich slated against Carlos Costa.

Both teams have named provisional doubles lineups with Israel fielding Ofer Sela and Noam Behr against Alex Coretja and Emilio Sanchez.

Alberto Costa is ranked 18 in the ATP standings while Carlos Costa is placed 28.

Ran, Israel's top player, is 173, while Erlich is 317.

Play begins at 14:00 today with tomorrow's doubles to be played after the opening ceremony at 14:30. Sunday's reverse singles also begin at 14:00.

Channel 1 will show live coverage today beginning at 14:00, although live transmission ends at 17:30. Tomorrow's coverage begins at 14:30.

Congratulations Elliot Hoff! You Took It To The Hoop! You correctly picked Kentucky to win the NCAA Championship and won the draw for an evening at the Golf Instruction Center and Driving Range at the Wingate Institute.

RUGBY International ISRAEL VS. LUXEMBOURG Herzliya Soccer Stadium Sunday, "Chol Hamoad" April 7th, at 3pm

Rebbe's ritual bath water 'miraculous'

LUBAVITCHER Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson died almost two years ago, but his followers continue to revere his memory and vestiges of his existence, including reputedly miraculous water from a ritual bath in which he immersed himself.

The water, known as *mayim haim* ("living waters"), is distributed in tiny plastic vials by those of the rebbe's disciples who continue to revere him as the messiah. The supply is apparently unlimited as his followers believe a "living" drop has only to be mixed with regular water to turn that into living waters.

The original water, which was collected 10 years before the rebbe's death by Rabbi Yisrael Halprin, the Habad rabbi of Herzliya, is said to have curative powers. According to a newsletter distributed by Habad Hassidim in Jerusalem, a tailor who suffered from rheumatism and had no clients rubbed some of the water on his joints and subsequently not only

HAIM SHAPIRO

had no pain, but also received orders for 10 new suits.

Another incident recounted in the newsletter tells of a boy born with breathing difficulties and a heart defect. After the mother rubbed the baby with the water, he recovered and was circumcised.

In Jerusalem, the water is distributed at Beit Mashiach, a shop just off Jaffa Road. An explanatory flyer given out with the water explains that the water is not for sale, but recommends giving a "large" sum of charity to hasten redemption. The recommended amount is 28 times NIS 28 (NIS 784).

The flyer suggests that the user should first say, "Long live our master, teacher, and rabbi, the king, the messiah, forever and ever," make a donation, and then make the request, mentioning one's own name and one's moth-

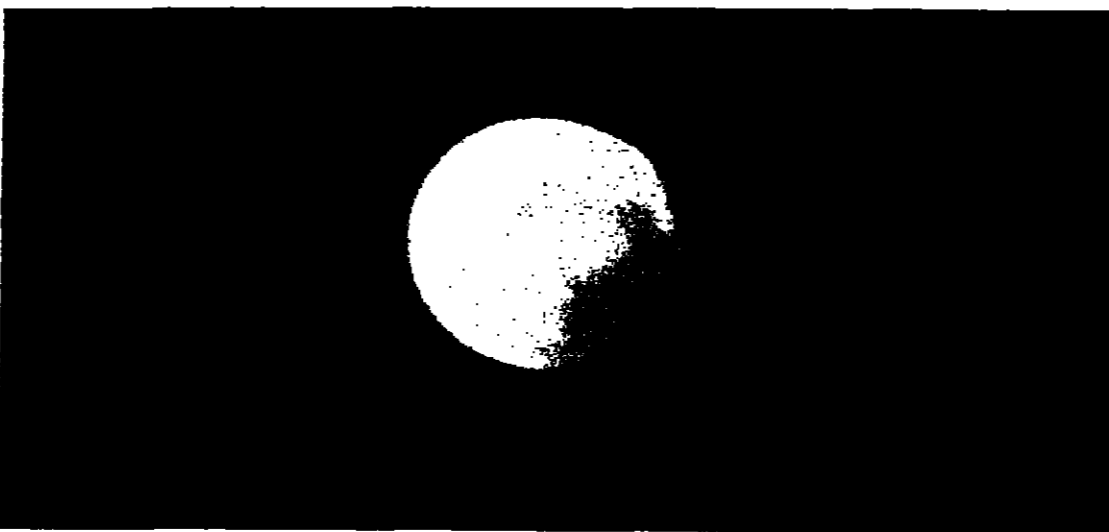
er's name. According to the flyer, the user may then drink the water, reciting the appropriate blessing, or rub the water on an afflicted area. Finally, the flyer says, the user should publicize the miraculous effects.

Habad spokesman Menachem Brod dismissed the living waters, saying it is the work of a marginal group. There is no need to invent miracles and things that were not customary during the rebbe's life, Brod said.

However, he added, the rebbe had been in the habit of distributing small bottles of "blessed wine" at the conclusion of holidays and some of these bottles still exist.

He dismissed the miracles as mere stories and said the phenomenon had been condemned by Rabbi Yehuda Jerusalemsky, head of the Habad rabbinical court in Israel.

"I'm sure that during the rebbe's lifetime they would not have dared to do it," Brod said.



A total lunar eclipse was observed throughout the country in the early hours of yesterday. (Yitzhak Elharar / Scoop 80)

Barak sees Assad as 'admirable' foe

CAIRO (AP) - Foreign Minister Ehud Barak sees Syrian President Hafez Assad as an admirable foe who is trying to negotiate the best possible deal for his people.

In an interview with the daily *Al-Hayat*, Barak was quoted Wednesday as characterizing Assad as "an efficient and admirable leader."

He added: "It is true that he is a tyrant, but he is patient and makes accurate calculations. He is a serious leader who, of course, is fighting for Syrian interests and not those of Israel."

Barak also said that he admired "many Syrian commanders," including Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Hikmat Shihabi, who has been one of the negotiators in the Israeli-Syrian talks.

Turning to the closure, Barak said: "I believe the closure is necessary for security reasons and it should continue as long as there are security reasons which justify it."

He denied it is collective punishment, as the Palestinians and human rights groups have charged.

Barak also insisted that the closure and suspension of peace talks were not related to the elections. He said he did not know when talks with the Palestinians would resume, but added: "It has nothing to do with the elections. It is because of the terrorist attacks."

He said that the Palestinians are doing "more than before" to contain opponents of the peace process.

On talks with Syria, Barak said Israel wants to hear "a clear condemnation of terrorism."

"We are concerned, and we believe that a way should be found to resolve our problems with Syria," he said.

After a meeting Tuesday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Assad told reporters that Israel is delaying negotiations and warned that there would not be peace in the region "unless Israel changes its style" in dealings with the Arabs.

Germany okays extension of reparations fund

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

GERMANY'S executive branch has agreed to extend funding for war reparations to Holocaust survivors, the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany said Monday, following the latest round of negotiations.

The "Article Two" fund, which provides monthly payments of DM 500 (NIS 1,050), would be extended through 1999 once Bonn secures parliamentary approval, said Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the Claims Conference.

Some 18,000 claims have been approved, and the Claims Conference estimates that a total of more than 30,000 survivors will be eligible for the payments.

The fund was created by the pact that reunified Germany, which committed Germany to continue the former West Germany's policy on restitution.

Administered under German government guidelines, the fund is limited to those who were in a concentration camp for at least six months or in a ghetto or in hiding for 18 months.

The Claims Conference, which will resume negotiations with Germany within a few months, continues to press Bonn to expand the eligibility guidelines.

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